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Roadside bomb kills Israeli soldier

TEL AVIV (AP) — A roadside bomb exploded in South Lebanon killing an Israeli soldier on patrol, the army said Saturday. Yuval Ratig, 18, was killed Friday night when the bomb went off near an Israeli army patrol at Beaufort ridge in the eastern sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone." Lebanese reports said the army fired four tank rounds in the area Saturday morning, near the site where some 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel in December were gathered to protest the U.S.-backed Middle East peace talks. The army did not confirm the report of shelling. Ratig was the fifth Israeli soldier killed this year by roadside bombs in South Lebanon. The army has said that some 40 such bombs have been discovered this year, but most were neutralised.

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Communist backers battle Moscow police

MOSCOW (R) — Hundreds of pro-communist protesters battled against riot police with rocks and makeshift cudgels in Moscow Saturday after authorities blocked plans for a May Day protest against Russian President Boris Yeltsin. In the worst street violence since the August 1991 coup attempt, police backed up special riot forces on horseback responded with batons and drenched banner-waving, stick-wielding demonstrators with water cannon. Scores of people — police and civilians — were injured in the hour-long clashes, which erupted in the city's Gagarin Square after riot police first prevented about 2,000 communist and nationalist demonstrators from going to Red Square and then blocked their route to the Lenin Hills overlooking the city. Protesters hurled chunks of masonry at police and attacked them with poles from their banners when they found their route blocked by trucks and ranks of white-helmeted riot police. Demonstrators smashed their way into trucks using metal bars and tried to push them aside, at least two were set on fire. The street was strewn with rocks.

40 years on the throne Jordan marks King's anniversary of assuming constitutional powers with nation-wide festivities and celebrations

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The people of Jordan today celebrate the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers with nation-wide festivities and ceremonies. The celebrations, which include street marches, public rallies, exhibitions and folklore activities, are planned in various towns and villages bedecked with flags, the King's portraits and other decorative signs as well as posters and slogans voicing support for and pledging allegiance to the Hashemite Throne. Born in Amman in 1935, King Hussein was brought up under the care of the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, his grandfather and founder of the Kingdom, as well as his father, the late King Talal, and Queen Zein, the Queen Mother. The King acceded to the Throne in 1952 when he was only 17, and assumed his constitutional powers in the following year. Despite his young age at the time of assuming power, King Hussein handled the affairs of the country with clear vision and long-term strategies, and managed to realise a number of ambitious development projects to bring Jordan to the fore of the

developing countries. Today, Jordan's name is closely linked with that of King Hussein and Jordanians consider him as the symbol of the country's stability and progress in every field. King Hussein has paid special attention to the building up of the Jordanian Armed Forces, equipping the army with the most up to date weapons to defend the nation. The King can look with pride on what has been achieved in his country and under his rule, and the Jordanian people have reason to be proud of having King Hussein at the helm to direct the destiny of the nation. A committee charged with preparing celebrations on this anniversary announced the Jordanian Armed Forces and the Public Security Department will organise joint military performances at a special ceremony to be held in Marka, east of Amman. 6,000 students will present athletic performances during the ceremony. Committee Chairman Salameh Hammud said that the industry and trade sector will also participate in the celebrations by organising a procession of vehicles

designed in a manner to reflect the industrial and economic progress achieved in the Kingdom over the past four decades of the King's rule. On the anniversary of his assumption of his constitutional powers, King Hussein received cables of good wishes from senior government officials and high ranking army officers, heads of trade unions, tribal chieftains, leaders of Christian and Muslim communities and public figures. A large delegation representing the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip has arrived here to take part in the celebrations and to present their good wishes to the King on this occasion. The delegation includes mayors of towns, heads of Islamic and Christian communities, heads of trade unions, and various associations. In arrival statements they expressed their delight on being here to meet the King and the Jordanian people and voiced their full support for the King's policies and appreciation of this continued endeavours to serve the Palestinian cause. The arrival of the Palestinian delegation here coincided with the departure of a group of Palestinians to their homeland after being permitted to do so by the Israeli authorities following

years in exile. The first group of 15 Palestinians crossed into the West Bank Friday while another 15 will be on their way on Monday. King Hussein congratulated the returning Palestinian and expressed hope that all Palestinian expellees will be repatriated and a durable peace will be established. Addressing the returnees at a meeting held at the Royal Court Thursday, King Hussein said: "We pledge to pursue all that is in our power to extend support for the Palestinian rights in their homeland and to arrive at a durable and just peace." "As I address you on this occasion I share with every one of you the great joy of being able to return to your homeland," King Hussein said. The King asked that the returning Palestinians convey his affection and support for the Palestinian people and absolute support for their continued steadfastness and just struggle to regain their rights. Former Mayor of Jerusalem Rawhi Al Khatib spoke on behalf of the group thanking the King for his support for the Palestinian people and lauding Jordan's sacrifices for Palestine. At a separate meeting King

Hussein met Thursday at the Royal Court with 26 senior representatives of the London-based American news organisation Worldwide Television News (WTN), who are in Amman for a four-day WTN conference. Meeting with His Majesty were WTN President Robert Burke, WTN Vice-President and Managing Editor Lowndes Lipscomb, as well as other top editors and WTN's bureau chiefs from all over the world. WTN President Burke thanked the King for meeting with the group, and told His Majesty that Amman was chosen as the site of the conference for sentimental as well as practical reasons. "Sentimental because Amman is the one place where most of our journalists have actually worked from time to time over the last 20 years, and practical because if anything is in the middle of the world, it's Amman," Mr. Burke said. During the 45 minute meeting, the King answered questions about current developments in the Middle East and the rest of the world, including the Middle East peace negotiations, the democratisation process in Jordan, the achievements of the Kingdom during the last forty years and the situation of Bosnian Muslims.



Iraq denies plot to assassinate Bush

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq has denied Kuwaiti allegations that it planned to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during a visit to Kuwait last month. The Iraqi News Agency (INA), citing government officials Friday, dismissed the Kuwaiti allegations as ridiculous, and quoted one official as saying: "Kuwaiti shekhs are predisposed to lying and from time to time they do just that." Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Salem Al Sabah Tuesday said a would-be suicide bomber and other "terrorists" from Iraq planned to assassinate Mr. Bush during his April 14-15 visit to the emirate.

Beirut embassy blast covered by amnesty

BEIRUT (R) — A Lebanon military court ruled that the 1983 bombing of the U.S. embassy in Beirut and the killing of a French military attaché in 1986 were covered by a general amnesty for war crimes, a newspaper reported Saturday. The leading daily Al Nahar said the tribunal ruled that the April 1983 bombing, which killed 63 people, was a political crime covered by a general amnesty for offences committed during the country's 15-year civil war. Judicial authorities were not available for comment.

Repent or else, Mubarak to militants

CAIRO (AFP) — President Hosni Mubarak Saturday told Muslim militants to repent or else. In a May Day speech, Mr. Mubarak said there would be no "truce nor mercy" for militants who fail to give up their violent campaign, which has seriously damaged the tourist industry and left around 140 people dead. On Thursday, Mubarak for the first time upheld the death sentence against a Muslim extremist charged with killing a police officer in November and the attempted murder of another.

Hariri visits Gulf

BEIRUT (AP) — Prime Minister Rafik Hariri left Saturday for the United Arab Emirates, the first stop of a four-nation Gulf swing to whip up financial assistance for the reconstruction of Lebanon. The swing also will take Mr. Hariri to Oman, Bahrain and Qatar, a government announcement said. He was accompanied by Druze leader Walid Junblatt, who serves as minister of refugee affairs.

King encouraged by American role Palestinians say progress made in peace negotiations

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said Friday peace talks with Israel were finally producing results and might be entering a "qualitatively different phase." Dr. Ashrawi told reporters that a series of Israeli gestures, notably allowing home 30 long-term expellees, and a new Israeli attitude at the talks had greatly improved prospects for progress. She also praised more active involvement by the United States, saying it had promised to give Palestinians information which they badly needed on the growth of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

King Hussein said Thursday he was encouraged by a more active U.S. role in Middle East peace talks but would not predict a breakthrough this year in negotiations with Israel. "I am encouraged and hopeful that Washington is determined to do all it can with the new spirit and new determination to help all concerned move towards the kind of solution that generations after can live with," he said in a Reuters interview. "I don't know what 'full partner' means but we have had some good signs so far," he added. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, trying to get Arabs and Israel back to the bargaining table, said in his first tour of the

region this year that Washington would become a full partner in the peace process to try to move talks along. U.S. officials have made a point of mediating between the Palestinians and Israel to try to deliver on Israeli promises which brought the Palestinian negotiators back to the talks. The Palestinians say those pledges included agreement to speed the return of the expellees in South Lebanon and of other Palestinians expelled since 1967. "It is a good beginning, I cannot add more than that," King Hussein said of the Israeli move. The Monarch said he could not

Premadasa assassinated

COLOMBO (Agencies) — President Ranasinghe Premadasa was assassinated Saturday by a suicide bomber while leading a May Day parade through the capital. At least 10 other people were killed and 60 injured as explosives strapped to the chest of the assailant blew up near Mr. Premadasa, said Anthony Fernando, the president's spokesman. "Yes, the president is among the dead," he said. Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga was sworn in as the new president and a nationwide curfew was imposed.



Lankan leadership would need to make a fresh initiative to end the ethnic conflict in the island nation. "There must be a new initiative about the Tamil problem," he said. "Premadasa was not successful in this when he was the president." Saturday's explosion occurred as Mr. Premadasa was talking to activists in his party as he led the parade down a main street of the capital, according to one of his top aides, Evans Cooray. Mr. Cooray, who left the president's side moments before the blast to answer a phone call, said: "I looked around and saw some people thrown in the air. Others were lying on the ground." For half an hour, he said, no-one knew where Mr. Premadasa was. "We thought he had been taken away by security people, but later his body was reported to be lying in the police morgue."

The assassination comes as Sri Lanka is being wracked by a Tamil rebellion. The guerrilla's 10-year-old insurgency for an independent homeland has left more than 17,000 people dead. Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatist group denied involvement in the assassination. "We deny categorically LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) involvement in the assassination," spokesman Lawrence Thilagar told AFP by telephone from the LTTE's office in Paris. The LTTE is waging a bloody campaign to set up an independent homeland in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority northeast. Mr. Thilagar said the new Sri

He said Mr. Premadasa might have been killed by supporters of opposition leader Lalith Athulathumudali, who was shot dead by an unidentified gunman at an election rally in Colombo April 23. "There is an apparent motive behind (Premadasa's assassination) because of the assassination of Athulathumudali," Mr. Thilagar said. "The possibility of revenge killing (is there). Athulathumudali's friends might have done it." The LTTE is waging a bloody campaign to set up an independent homeland in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority northeast. Mr. Thilagar said the new Sri

The 30 people who were killed in the explosion included two of the 15 police officials escorting the president and a top aide, Mohammad Mohideen, doctors said. The parade in central Colombo was organised by Mr. Premadasa's governing United National Party to honour blue-collar workers on May Day.

Saleh's party wins Yemeni elections

SANAA (AP) — The General People's Congress (GPC), which ruled conservative North Yemen before merger with the formerly Marxist South in 1990, swept more than one thirds of parliamentary seats in this week's elections, officials said Saturday. Sadeq Amin Abu Ras, spokesman for the Supreme Electoral Committee, told a news conference that the congress, which is headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, has secured 121 of the 301 seats contested in Tuesday ballot.

Results from three precincts remain incomplete, but the votes counted so far gave the opposition Muslim fundamentalist Islah 62 seats and the Yemen Socialist Party, which ruled South Yemen before the merger, 56 seats, Mr. Abu Ras said. Forty-seven seats went to independents, seven to the pan-Arab Baath Party, three to the Nasserites and two to the Haq Party, a religious Islamic grouping, Mr. Abu Ras said. The Socialist Party and Mr. Saleh's congress formed a coalition to rule Yemen after the merger. But they fielded separate candidates in the election. More than 3,600 candidates, including 50 women, competed for seats in the house. Two women, one an independent and another a socialist, were elected, according to the results released so far.

The elections were widely regarded as a key test of Yemen's infant democracy in a region dominated by monarchies and one-party rule. The government has expressed its satisfaction with the poll, which the coalition hopes would cement the merger and end the political turmoil that has gripped this country of 14.5 million people. The government claimed a 95 per cent turnout among the estimated 2.7 million eligible voters. But the fundamentalists have accused the ruling coalition of rigging the elections and several clashes have been reported in the

Yugoslavia mediators optimistic

ATHENS (Agencies) — International mediators were reported to be confident Saturday that a summit with Yugoslav leaders this weekend would swing Bosnia's Serbs into line with their peace plan for the battered Balkan state. But diplomats warned that even if Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic agreed to recommend approval of the plan to his self-styled parliament, there were still major hurdles to be cleared before the year-long war could be ended. "There is a strong feeling that pressure from Belgrade is forcing the Serbs in Bosnia to rethink and step back from outright challenge to the world community," said one official close to the mediators, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen. Other sources involved in the pair's eight-month effort to negotiate an end to the Bosnian

conflict said hopes were high that Mr. Karadzic would at least promise to recommend the plan to the Bosnian Serb parliament. "We are hopeful that we are close to a solution," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and special envoy for the Yugoslav problem Vitaly Churkin told reporters in the Greek capital. On arrival for the meeting, Mr. Karadzic said for the Serbs "the Vance and Owen plan is 70 to 80 per cent acceptable regarding territories." Serb areas created under the plan should be linked, he told reporters. The Athens meeting was called by Mr. Vance, outgoing mediator for the United Nations, and Lord Owen, who represents the European Community, on Thursday as the United States appeared moving to a decision to use military force against the Serbs. It also comes a week after

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and his ally President Momir Bulatovic of Montenegro publicly broke ranks with their ethnic kin in Bosnia and told them they should sign up for the entire Vance-Owen plan. The plan, elaborated in tough negotiations in Geneva and New York since last September, includes a new constitution for Bosnia, a military disengagement plan, a map of 10 new provinces, and a blueprint for interim peace arrangements. U.S. President Bill Clinton Saturday brought together top foreign policy advisers for an early-morning strategy session as he neared a decision on "clearly defined" steps to help quell the violence in Bosnia. Secretary of Defence Les Aspin and Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,

Khartoum rejects confederation formula

ABUJA (Agencies) — The government delegation at peace talks here Sudan, has rejected a proposal by rebel delegates for a confederation of northern and southern Sudan and has put forward its own formula for federalism, a spokesman said. "True federalism, as practised by Nigeria, is of significance to us because it encourages power-sharing and equality. Confederation is separation, which is not acceptable," said spokesman Ali Al Haj Mohammad. He said all the ideas in the confederal system proposed by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Liberation Army (SPLM/SPLA) notably separate security systems, armies foreign affairs and immigration systems

were aimed at splitting Sudan. The two sides agreed to suspend discussion on the issue of permanent ceasefire until after all other matters on the agenda had been resolved, said the spokesman for the Nigerian mediation team, Ambassador Olu Sanu. But they agreed the ceasefire currently in place in Sudan should continue throughout the Abuja talks, he added. Mr. Sanu said the Nigerian government would meet separately each of the two delegations over the weekend to "give ideas on compromises, especially on Sharia (Islamic) law." The aim of the conference was to work out an interim arrangement for a fence-mending period to allow each side to "build up

confidence" and also to repair infrastructures damaged during a decade of civil strife, he said. Sudan's National Assembly Speaker Mohammad Al Amin Khalifa and several ministers joined the government team Friday. The talks are due to resume on Monday. Conference sources said the Sudanese government and the rebels appeared to be no closer to resolving fundamental issues that divide them than they were when the talks began Wednesday. "It is premature to talk about progress now. We have not been able to make any headway for now," Nkhil Deng, spokesman for John Garang's mainstream SPLA, told reporters Friday.

Looking forward to the
DIAMOND JUBILEE
Eng. Sabri Farah & family

Moscow police, marchers clash

MOSCOW (R) — Pro-Communist demonstrators clashed with police in Moscow Saturday after authorities blocked plans for a May Day protest against President Boris Yeltsin.

Protesters hurled stones and chunks of masonry at riot police and attacked them with poles from their banners in a violent confrontation at the city's Gagarin Square.

Police hit back with batons and water cannon. A police official at the scene said one policeman had been killed, while demonstrators said two of their number had died in the melee.

The violence erupted after about 2,000 Communist and nationalist demonstrators who rallied in the city's Oktyabrskaya Square were prevented by a huge force of riot police from heading for Red Square.

Mr. Yeltsin banned all meetings on Red Square, traditional focal point of May Day celebrations under Communist rule, last Wednesday.

The demonstrators, whose rally was organised by the National Salvation Front, then headed off to the Lenin Hills overlooking the city, but police barred their way again.

Eyewitnesses said about 200 demonstrators attacked police after finding trucks blocking their route to the Lenin Hills.

Two trucks were set ablaze in the clashes which raged for an hour across the square that stands in front of a towering monument to the first man in space, Yuri Gagarin.

Five men, their heads banded, headed the column which swelled in numbers as it went, but police in riot gear again blocked the demonstrators' route at Oktyabrskaya Square.

As demonstrators chanted "death to Yeltsin," one official declared through loudspeakers from atop a truck: "From today we announce a patriotic war against this regime."

"Please, those who are good at using explosives report to the truck," he added.



A pro-Communist demonstrator is attacked by a police officer during a May Day march in Moscow (AFP photo)

Marchers, who included at least three members of the former Soviet leadership being tried for their part in the August 1991 putsch, then headed back intending to march to the Russian parliament building.

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the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

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ANC begins mass action

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The African National Congress (ANC) and its allies started a month of mass action Saturday to push demands for a quick end to white-minority rule in South Africa.

May Day rallies took place around the country, and there were no immediate reports of trouble following ANC pleas to avoid violence.

But in the white stronghold of Vereeniging, heavily-armed members of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) lined gardens along roads black township dwellers were expected to take to a rally.

Police were out in force and some areas were blocked off with barbed wire in the town 60 kilometres south of Johannesburg.

ANC leaders gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg for the lying in state of the movement's late chairman, Oliver Tambo, who led the anti-apartheid struggle for three decades from exile in London and Lusaka.

Mr. Tambo, who died of a stroke last Saturday at the age of 75, will be buried Sunday following funeral services in Soweto's FNB Football Stadium.

The ANC has urged its followers to avoid the violence that followed the assassination of Communist Party leader Chris Hani two weeks earlier.

More than 80 people died in the aftermath of the killing. Police have charged Polish immigrant Janusz Walus and Gaye Derby-Lewis, wife of a prominent rightwing pro-apartheid

politician, with the murder. The ANC and its allies plan a month of demonstrations, boycotts, sit-ins and other action to back demands for quick progress in democracy negotiations.

Government and business leaders fear disruptions could further damage the country's economy, already battered by the longest recession on record.

Government and ANC negotiators said talks Friday on a new constitution had made good progress and substantive debate would start within two weeks.

The 26 political groups participating in the talks agreed to set up expert committees on key issues after a strongly-worded document on violence submitted by the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party threatened to derail the proceedings.

Kim An said. "He will continue to enjoy his role as head of state...He'll continue to play a uniting role with all the factions," he said.

The Khmer Rouge has said it would boycott any May SNC meeting if held in Phnom Penh.

Mr. Hun Sen warned Saturday that civil war would sweep the country again if his party loses elections this month.

Mr. Hun Sen, speaking at an election rally, said if his Cambodian People's Party (CPP) was defeated in the May 23-27 vote "genocidal war" would break out again, a clear reference to the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction.

The Khmer Rouge, boycotting the U.N.-supervised polls, were responsible for the deaths of some one million Cambodians during its 1975-1979 rule.

Hun Sen said only the CPP could prevent a return of the Khmer Rouge and he appealed for the votes of the 5,000 or so villagers attending the rally.

Armed police and soldiers were in evidence Saturday but security was low-key.

Princess Sihanouk would remain as head of state, once the SNC "had completed its mission", Mr.

Princess Sihanouk also demanded the renunciation of all forms of violence, all violations of human rights and an end to attacks on foreigners, particularly military and civilian officials of the U.N. peacekeeping force.

The prince, who on Friday asked the Cambodian government and the former resistance groups to send representatives to Peking around May 5 or 6, also asked that all the rules for the elections be observed to ensure a free, fair and secret ballot.

The elections are the goal of the 22,000-strong United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, set up after the four factions signed a peace agreement in Paris

in 1991 formally ending 13 years of civil war.

But the radical Khmer Rouge guerrilla group has vowed to disrupt the polls.

Princess Sihanouk's proposal for a Peking meeting said the discussions in the Chinese capital would include U.N. peacekeeping chief Yasushi Akashi.

The Phnom Penh government Saturday rejected an earlier Sihanouk proposal to hold a full-fledged meeting of the all-faction Supreme National Council (SNC), which the prince heads, in Peking.

"There is nothing else to negotiate," said Uch Kim An, principal policy adviser to Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen, adding that the government was now totally preoccupied with its election campaign.

"The question of SNC meetings outside Cambodia is not practicable in any sense," Mr. Kim An said in Trabek, 90 kilometres southeast of Phnom Penh, where Hun Sen was on the campaign trail.

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More than 80 people died in the aftermath of the killing. Police have charged Polish immigrant Janusz Walus and Gaye Derby-Lewis, wife of a prominent rightwing pro-apartheid

politician, with the murder. The ANC and its allies plan a month of demonstrations, boycotts, sit-ins and other action to back demands for quick progress in democracy negotiations.

Government and business leaders fear disruptions could further damage the country's economy, already battered by the longest recession on record.

Government and ANC negotiators said talks Friday on a new constitution had made good progress and substantive debate would start within two weeks.

The 26 political groups participating in the talks agreed to set up expert committees on key issues after a strongly-worded document on violence submitted by the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party threatened to derail the proceedings.

Kim An said. "He will continue to enjoy his role as head of state...He'll continue to play a uniting role with all the factions," he said.

The Khmer Rouge has said it would boycott any May SNC meeting if held in Phnom Penh.

Mr. Hun Sen warned Saturday that civil war would sweep the country again if his party loses elections this month.

Mr. Hun Sen, speaking at an election rally, said if his Cambodian People's Party (CPP) was defeated in the May 23-27 vote "genocidal war" would break out again, a clear reference to the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction.

The Khmer Rouge, boycotting the U.N.-supervised polls, were responsible for the deaths of some one million Cambodians during its 1975-1979 rule.

Hun Sen said only the CPP could prevent a return of the Khmer Rouge and he appealed for the votes of the 5,000 or so villagers attending the rally.

Armed police and soldiers were in evidence Saturday but security was low-key.

Princess Sihanouk would remain as head of state, once the SNC "had completed its mission", Mr.

Princess Sihanouk also demanded the renunciation of all forms of violence, all violations of human rights and an end to attacks on foreigners, particularly military and civilian officials of the U.N. peacekeeping force.

The prince, who on Friday asked the Cambodian government and the former resistance groups to send representatives to Peking around May 5 or 6, also asked that all the rules for the elections be observed to ensure a free, fair and secret ballot.

The elections are the goal of the 22,000-strong United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, set up after the four factions signed a peace agreement in Paris

in 1991 formally ending 13 years of civil war.

But the radical Khmer Rouge guerrilla group has vowed to disrupt the polls.

Princess Sihanouk's proposal for a Peking meeting said the discussions in the Chinese capital would include U.N. peacekeeping chief Yasushi Akashi.

The Phnom Penh government Saturday rejected an earlier Sihanouk proposal to hold a full-fledged meeting of the all-faction Supreme National Council (SNC), which the prince heads, in Peking.

"There is nothing else to negotiate," said Uch Kim An, principal policy adviser to Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen, adding that the government was now totally preoccupied with its election campaign.

"The question of SNC meetings outside Cambodia is not practicable in any sense," Mr. Kim An said in Trabek, 90 kilometres southeast of Phnom Penh, where Hun Sen was on the campaign trail.

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COLUMN

Princess Diana selects her first woman bodyguard

LONDON (AFP) Princess Diana, estranged wife of Britain's heir to the throne Prince Charles, has for the first time picked a woman as one of her personal bodyguards. Sergeant Carol Quirk, selected for her marksmanship skills, will be one of four officers providing close protection for the princess. They will accompany the princess on all her private and official engagements. Buckingham Palace refused to give any personal details about the officer, saying they were "top secret." Princess Diana becomes the second member of the royal family after the Princess Royal to appoint a female bodyguard.

Audrey Hepburn remembered in film, poetry and song

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Audrey Hepburn was celebrated in music, poetry and film at a U.N. gala tribute in praise of her work as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations Children's Fund, or UNICEF. Actor Roger Moore, himself a UNICEF goodwill ambassador, presented the programme for the actress, who spent four years promoting UNICEF, she died at her home in Switzerland on Jan. 20. Hepburn's own words dominated the star-studded evening in a film montage created by her long-time companion, Robert Wolders. "They cannot speak up for themselves so we must," she said, holding half-starved children in Somalia and Ethiopia. "There cannot be enough witnesses."

Trumps walk out of divorce court like newlyweds

NEW YORK (R) — A beaming Donald and Ivana Trump walked out of a New York divorce court Friday kissing and holding hands like newlyweds, ending two years of haggling over the financial settlement of their 1991 divorce. "We are friends, just friends," said Ivana as she and "the Donald", as the real estate tycoon and Atlantic City casino owner is nicknamed, rushed to a limousine and left for a champagne celebration. The Trumps symbolised for New Yorkers the style of the 1980s and had major celebrity status during their 12-year marriage, which ended amid reports he was having an affair with model Maria Maples. During a 30-minute hearing before a Manhattan judge they swore to the terms of the settlement and agreed never to sue each other again. When Mr. Trump strolled into the second-floor courtroom for the hearing, he went over to his ex-wife and planted a kiss on her cheek. Ivana chatted and giggled with her ex-husband. "We have a great relationship. We always have had a great relationship. She's a wonderful woman," Mr. Trump told reporters outside the courthouse.

Police spoil bank robbers' gourmet celebrations

NICE, France (R) — After holding up a bank, what better way to celebrate than with a slap-up meal? It took police just an hour to track down five suspected robbers to a restaurant in this French Riviera town where they were having lunch. The five men and a suspected accomplice were detained on suspicion of robbing a branch of some 57,000 francs (\$10,000) from a Credit Agricole Bank branch — was recovered, together with five guns and hoods and wigs.

U.K. breached own guidelines on arms to Iraq — report

LONDON (AFP) — The British government breached its own and international guidelines on the 1985 arms embargo against Iraq, sending weapons to the country via Jordan, a BBC documentary alleged late Friday.

The revelations come as an inquiry investigating the illegal export of arms to Iraq is due to start its public hearing Tuesday.

The inquiry was set up by Prime Minister John Major in the wake of the collapse of the Matrox-Churchill trial last year, where the government was implicated in the illegal export of arms to Iraq.

"It is little bit difficult for me to say that an MP or a minister has not been telling the truth. We were not, however, adhering to the strict guidelines set down by Sir Geoffrey Howe in 1985," said Mark Higson, Foreign Office Iraq desk officer 1980-1990. He later resigned the service.

"We wouldn't have sold a Cheftan tank, but you might have sold them something that could have helped them build or enhance their own weapons potential," he told BBC. "As officials we knew that there was flexibility on Iraq."

The programme alleged that the British government used Jordan to avoid the strict ban on the sale of lethal weapons to Iraq.

"The use of Jordan as a conduit was discussed at those meetings," Mr. Higson said. "It wasn't as though we were deliberately trying to arm Iraq through a third country, however, but the fact that it was happening and that we might have been aware of it, might have been let it go by."

The Jordanian ambassador to Britain, Fouad Ayoub, backed up Mr. Higson's statements, adding that British was not alone in breaching the arms embargo during the Iran-Iraq war and prior to

the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

"It is no secret that during the years of the Iran-Iraq war, many countries including Western countries and Arab countries were keen to see that the Iraqi military capabilities then remained undiminished. Jordan operated within this context."

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Queen stresses Swiss-Jordanian links at archaeological exhibit opening in Zurich

AMMAN (J.T.) — The rediscovery of the Nabatean city of Petra by Swiss traveller Johann Ludwig Burckhardt in 1812 launched a period of scholarly and cultural cooperation between Jordan and Switzerland, which was celebrated and reinforced Thursday with the inauguration of an archaeological exhibition "Petra and the Incense Road" in Zurich by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

At the opening ceremony, Queen Noor was received by His Serene Highness Prince Hans Adam II of Liechtenstein, the president of the Swiss-Liechtenstein Foundation for Archaeological Research Abroad, and Flavio Cotti, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The exhibition held under the patronage of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, was sponsored by the Swiss Credit Bank and the Swiss-Liechtenstein Foundation for Archaeological Research Abroad (SLFA), in cooperation with the Jordan Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

The exhibition will display objects excavated by the Swiss-

Liechtenstein team, as well as other artifacts discovered in Petra.

After three months, the exhibition will move to the Antikenmuseum in Basel, which is closely related to the excavations of the University of Basel and the SLFA at Petra.

Discussions are currently being conducted to extend the duration of the exhibition for another three months following Basel, and to move it to Bern for that additional period.

Speakers at the opening of the exhibition included Prince Hans Adam, Dr. Wildner, president of the Executive Board of Swiss Volksbank, and Professor Rolf Stucky from Basel University, leader of the Petra excavation project.

Dr. Wildner described the meeting between Jordan and Switzerland as a "reunion," in reference to the ancient connection between the Helvetians and the Nabateans, in addition to the rediscovery of Petra by Burckhardt.

All speakers expressed their appreciation for the support and

patronage of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

In her address at the exhibition, the Queen stressed the links among Switzerland, ancient Nabateans and modern Jordan, saying they were "united by deeper concepts of social justice, nation-building and their contributions to regional and international peace."

The Queen referred to the Nabateans' "commitment to the values of peaceful coexistence, regional cooperation, resource integration, domestic justice and human development," values and national principles which are familiar to the people of Switzerland, and which have defined the land and people of Jordan for thousands of years and continue to guide modern Jordan.

In her concluding remarks, the Queen added, "we bring this exhibition to Switzerland in the same spirit that Burckhardt and other Swiss scholars and travellers visited our land — a spirit of mutual respect and admiration, a desire to study the past in order to forge a better future, and a pledge to continue

to work and to learn together for the common good of our two peoples and all of humankind."

Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat stated that participation by Jordan in such events as well as holding Jordanian exhibitions abroad were strongly promoted, and regarded as part of a strategy adopted by the ministry to introduce others to the culture and heritage of Jordan, and to encourage them to visit the Kingdom. He added that such participation presents an opportunity to meet with tour organisers in other countries to discuss arrangements for the promotion and development of tourism in Jordan.

The opening ceremony was attended by Their Highnesses Prince Raad Ben Zeid and Princess Majda Raad and Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat. The guests, which numbered around 600, included politicians, businessmen, members and friends of the Foundation of Archaeological Research, board members of the Swiss Credit Bank and high-ranking officials in Zurich.

Government to pay retroactive salary increases

AMMAN (J.T.) — Salary increases to civil servants and members of the Jordanian Armed Forces and security services in addition to retired civil and military personnel, will be applied next week.

A Royal Decree issued Thursday endorsed an earlier government decision on the increases and said that the increments would be effective as of January 1, 1993.

The Finance Ministry Thursday was reported making final arrangements for the payment on the retroactive increases.

The Royal Decree endorsed a supplement to the 1993 Fiscal Budget Law, which provides for the allocation of JD 73 million during 1993 for the payment of these increases which, according to the decree are meant to help improve the employees' living conditions.

According to the decree the increases are allocated as follows:

1. A JD 15 in the cost of living allowance will be paid monthly to all civil and military employees.
2. All employees working under contract with the government and public institutions will receive an increase in their pay at the rate of JD 15 monthly.
3. Daily paid workers will receive an increase of half a dinar daily.
4. The cost of living allowance for pensioners retired before September 1, 1977 will be JD 30 a month. The allowance for those retired between September 1, 1977 and February 28, 1981 will be JD 25 a month, and a JD 15 allowance monthly will be paid to those retired since March 1981 and beyond.

Other pensioners not under the above mentioned categories will receive an allowance of JD 7.5 a month.

Leading figures recall King Hussein's 40 years

AMMAN — On the eve of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers, former prime ministers, notable personalities and heads of political parties in Jordan recalled the King's past endeavours to serve his country and pointed to his present efforts on all fronts.

In a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, former Prime Minister Mudar Badran said that in his continued endeavour and struggle for the Kingdom, King Hussein never thought of personal benefit or glory and was indifferent to the dangers surrounding his own life.

In the course of serving Jordan, King Hussein Arabised the Jordanian Armed Forces and was keen on equipping the army with up-to-date weapons to defend the nation, said Mr. Badran.

On the pan-Arab level, the King is pursuing efforts to attain solidarity among Arab countries leading to ultimate unity in line with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, he added.

In his drive to create a model country out of Jordan and the Jordanian people, Mr. Badran said the King has been forging a democratic process to ensure freedom and human rights for all citizens.

Another former prime minister, Taher Al Masri, said King Hussein has been able to guide Jordan to safety amid a turbulent Middle East, enabling the country to enjoy stability, security and progress.

Most world leaders tend to win enemies rather than friends the longer they remain in power, but it is quite the contrary with King Hussein who is now loved more than at any time before, said Mr. Al Masri.

Former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai described the past four decades as being full of dangerous events and tragedies for the Arab World.

In Jordan, the past 40 years witnessed strides of progress and development in every field while the country enjoyed security and stability, he said.

Jordan, a country with meagre resources, has been able, under King Hussein, to forge ahead towards development and has overcome, with determination and resolve, numerous challenges in its way, Mr. Rifai added.

This anniversary finds King



Hussein serving as a symbol of wisdom, moderation and democracy in the eyes of the Arab and Islamic people in general and the Jordanians in particular, Mr. Rifai concluded.

Heads of political parties in Jordan voiced their good wishes to the King on this anniversary. Interviewed by Petra, these public figures paid tribute to King Hussein's ongoing efforts to enhance the process of democracy in the Kingdom.

In his view, the head of the Al Mustaqbal party, Suleiman Arar, said that the last 40 years were characterised by the construction and transformation of Jordan into a modern state.

He said Jordanians have reason to be proud of the progress achieved under King Hussein in every domain.

Azmi Al Khawaja, secretary general of the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, said that the 1989 free elections, political pluralism and the licensing of political parties are but a few achievements accomplished in Jordan under the King's four-decade rule.

Ali Amer, secretary general of the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party, said on the occasion, that King Hussein has responded to the needs and demands of his people and worked to safeguard national interests.

By adopting a policy of political pluralism and opting for democracy King Hussein has offered the Jordanian people the most precious gift, he said.

Mr. Amer said that the Jordanian people, in return, have all along regarded their leader as an embodiment of unity, a symbol of courage and a guarantee of further progress.

In the view of Mahmoud Maaitah, secretary general of the Arab Progressive Baath Party, King Hussein has never been discouraged by the hardships and the crises and has been able to steer the country towards safety through his relentless efforts.

Recalling the King's courageous stand during the past Arab-Israeli wars and the Gulf crisis of 1990-1991, Mr. Maaitah said that Jordanians and the Arab and Muslim worlds remember King Hussein's courage in confronting the exceptional circumstance, and in forging ahead with all his power to lead the country to safety.

Jordan contributes to mending ties at Islamic ministers meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber returned to Amman Saturday after participating in an Islamic countries foreign ministers meeting in Karachi, Pakistan at the head of Jordan's delegation.

Jordan's team contributed effectively and positively to the conference which concluded Thursday, putting forth several proposals that contributed to ending internal divisions, said the minister upon his return.

The Jordanian delegation was careful to participate in the work of the conference's various committees and in all public sessions, noted the minister.

Dr. Abu Jaber said Jordan called for the creation of a special committee composed of delegates from Islamic nations to work on



Kamel Abu Jaber

The conference approved Jordan's proposal and decided to establish a panel to deal with a dispute over the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) membership in the General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), said Dr. Abu Jaber.

Furthermore, the conference voiced full support for the ongoing peace efforts and regarded the question of Palestine and the holy places there as the prime issue for the Islamic nation, said Dr. Abu Jaber.

He said the conference demanded the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, the exchange of land for peace, and the prompt implementation of Resolution 799 on the repatriation of the expellees.

Belgian trade team to arrive for talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Belgian Economic Commission is due to open meetings in Amman Monday to discuss scopes of promoting trade and economic cooperation between Belgium and Jordan, according to the Belgian embassy here.

An embassy official said the Belgian side to the talks, led by Robert Urban of the Ministry of External Trade, is due here Sunday evening and the talks will hold Monday and Tuesday.

U.N. team arrives to investigate Israeli practices in Arab lands

AMMAN (J.T.) — A United Nations fact-finding mission which arrived in Amman Friday is expected to open talks with the head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs Adel Irshaid Monday.

The 14-member mission which is to spend five days in Amman has been entrusted with investigating Israeli practices, especially those infringing on Palestinian human rights in the occupied Arab lands, according to department officials.

They said Mr. Irshaid will outline the general conditions in the Arab lands under Israeli rule, the practices against the Palestinians and the serious situation in the Arab territories following their closure by the Israeli authorities last month and results of prolonged periods of curfews.

They said that the mission members will be meeting with several Palestinian citizens who have been subjected to Israel's inhuman treatment and torture during detention and those who have been evicted from their

homeland.

The fact finding group which was formed by the U.N. General Assembly in 1968, has been making annual visits to Jordan and the other Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees to file reports on the Palestinian people's conditions to the General Assembly.

The officials said that since its inception, the U.N. fact-finding mission has been barred by the Israeli authorities from visiting the occupied Arab lands.



Dental specialists and Minister of Health Aref Al Bataineh (third from right) conclude the first Arab orthodontics meeting Friday in Amman (Petra photo)

Meeting decides to form Arab orthodontics society

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from 13 Arab states and four non-Arab countries ended a two-day conference on orthodontics in Amman by declaring the formation of an Arab orthodontics society.

The meeting, which ended Friday evening, issued a statement Saturday that said the participants also decided to establish a constituent assembly to draft society statutes and by-laws and prepare for the society's next meeting in two years time.

A total of 39 working papers, were reviewed by the Arab delegates as well as representatives of France, the United States, Sweden and the Philippines, according to Irfan Sultan, secretary general of the conference.

The meeting was opened by Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The minister and the participating dentists and specialists stressed the need for further serious efforts to raise the standard of dentistry services in the Arab World.

During the conference, the first by Arab orthodontics, a general exhibition was held at the Jordanian Dentists Association, displaying a variety of equipment used in the dentistry profession.

The Arab delegates who took part in the meetings came from Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Qatar, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Libya, Sudan, Algeria and Tunisia.

According to Dr. Sultan, the society will direct its efforts towards raising the standard of the profession and will arrange for seminars and lectures as well as research work and a guidebook of Arab orthodontists.

ICRC to study humanitarian law application

AMMAN (J.T.) — "Implementation of Humanitarian Law" is the title of a three-day seminar to be organised in Amman next week by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Five ICRC representatives along with 16 delegates representing seven Arab states, including the Israeli-occupied Arab lands, will be taking part in the deliberations starting May 4, according to a statement from the ICRC office in Amman.

"Serious, countless and massive violations of the international humanitarian law and of the human rights law are dramatised every day and everywhere, confirming to us the little authority that the world acknowledges to the norms, and the rare cases

brought about on the human being, his dignity and his elementary rights," said the statement.

"Deeply concerned about this brutal contradiction between the spirit of the law and the practice of the conflicts' protagonists, the ICRC deems it urgent to remind them of their responsibilities... in order to stimulate awareness," the statement continued.

"Within this vision, the ICRC wishes to create the opportunity to meet to exchange views with key figures from the Arab World," it said.

"These figures are not necessarily specialised in law as such as they are known to be sensitive about issues touching on the re-

spect for the human being, hence sharing with us our deep concern," the statement added.

Thus, it said, the committee hopes to derive directions as to means of motivating the necessary awareness.

It said the delegates will be directing their attention to finding adequate solutions to the incorrect execution of international law, and they will be discussing the following issues: law enforcement, law on refugees and displaced persons and complementarity between the humanitarian law and human rights.

On the last day of the seminar, May 6, a public round table, gathering several participants, will be covered by the media.



Princess Wijdan Ali, chairperson of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, Thursday received from Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Mehmet Ali Irtuncelik and Mrs. Irtuncelik a painting by Turkish artist Burhan Dukenshal to the society on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers. Princess Wijdan delivered an address on the occasion in which she thanked the ambassador on the gesture, and praised cultural relations between Jordan and Turkey. She also commended artist Burhan Dukenshal, who is one of the most renowned contemporary Turkish artists.

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On the 40th anniversary of
His Majesty King Hussein's
assumption of his constitutional powers
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the Watani Sporting Club
and
the Homentmen Club
extend their best wishes to His Majesty
King Hussein, the Hashemite family and
the Jordanian people.

The National Music Conservatory /
Noor Al Hussein Foundation
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The American Center
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Monday and Tuesday 3 and 4 May 1993 - 8:00 p.m.
The Royal Cultural Centre
Wednesday 5 May 1993 - 4:00 p.m.
Yarmouk University - Irbid

Tickets for Amman performances will be sold for JD 7 each at:
- The Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 669026
- Babiche, Tel. 661322
- Romero Restaurant, Tel. 644227
- Philadelphia Hotel, Tel. 663100
- The American Center, Tel. 820101
- The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687820

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An occasion to remember

THE MOST fitting and vivid way to describe what His Majesty King Hussein means to the country and its people on this historic occasion of the 40th anniversary of his assumption of his constitutional power is to recall the moving and tumultuous reception he received last year upon his return from successful surgery in the U.S. When more than a million people crowded the streets of Amman and waited to get a glimpse of their beloved Monarch, there was nothing left to say about how Jordanians viewed and regarded their sovereign. The King's illness had made his subjects aware, more than ever before, of what he meant to them, and it was obvious that the man represented a symbol of unity and progress for all his people.

But if that September day's crystallisation of national cohesion and unity among the various segments of his large Jordanian family was uppermost on the minds of Jordanians, it by no means told the whole story of King and country. To take full stock of the Monarch's achievements after forty years on the throne can never be complete or easy. The countless milestones that mark the King's reign are only indicative of the long struggle that he has had to endure in the service of his nation.

It would be naive to presume that the long path of his leadership has been strewn with flowers and roses. Assassination and coup attempts in the first half of his rule and the suspension of democratic rule in the country were bitter experiences. So were the decisions to enter the 1967 war with Israel and to clash with the armed Palestinian groups in 1970. One of the most bitter experiences the King had to face was also the extent of the misunderstanding of his principled position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which also resulted in Arab divisions that persist till this very day.

On the other hand, the reintroduction of pluralistic democracy crowned the Monarch's contemporary successes. That giant leap effectively integrated the country into the democratic club and took the sting out of Israel's claim that it is the only democracy in the Middle East.

There is no doubt that even at this hour His Majesty feels that a tremendous amount of unfinished business lies ahead of him and his Kingdom. Peace in the Middle East, based on the return of the occupied territories to their rightful owners, progress and self-reliance in Jordan are but samples of the goals that the King still looks forward to attaining in the years ahead.

Long live the King, and may the years ahead give him and this country additional occasions and opportunities to achieve the remaining national goals and aspirations.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE RETURN of the first group of Palestinian exiles to their homeland is a modest beginning towards the return of all those deported by Israel over the past 25 years, said Al Dastour Arabic daily. It is hoped that the return of the first 15 would also constitute the first stage in the establishment of peace and justice and the restoration of all the Palestinian people's rights, the paper added. His Majesty King Hussein's words of farewell to the Palestinians reflected the true feelings of the Jordanian people in wishing them success in their endeavor to reestablish the rights of their people in the occupied Arab land, said the daily. In expressing his happiness at this move, the King hoped that all the deported people would soon return to their homeland and take part in the task of establishing their own state, said the paper. There is no doubt that the deportees will return to their beloved homeland carrying in their hearts the love of King Hussein and his people to the Palestinians who have been steadfast in their struggle for freedom, added the paper. Jordan, the paper said, will never abandon its efforts to help the Palestinians return to their homeland; and the Jordanians and the Palestinians will continue to work side by side towards the restoration of the Arab Nation's legitimate rights.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily demanded that members of the Armed Forces and security services be allowed to cast their votes in the coming parliamentary elections. Fahed Al Fanek said that the present election law is obsolete and should be amended or changed to allow these citizens to have their say in the coming elections. There is no justification in depriving any citizens of the right to vote, especially under the current political pluralism and democracy, he said. We have no right to deny any citizen his or her civic rights, under no circumstances, and the election law should be changed in order to cater to these rights, demanded Fanek. Of course the present deputies have an interest in retaining the same law because this law had brought them to Parliament; therefore, one can see why they defend of the old law, said the writer. He said that the only way out of the dilemma is for the government to enact a temporary law, after consulting with leaders of the local political parties, ensuring the one-man-one vote system which would be a fair system, catering to the rights and needs of the whole electorate.

Electoral reform in Jordan — a global menu of alternatives

By Curtis R. Ryan

As Jordan moves closer to the next round of national elections, two key questions remain unanswered: How democratic is the current election law, and is it in need of reform? Despite the many recent changes in the Jordanian political landscape — notably the appearance of 17 legal parties — the electoral process has remained unchanged since the last elections in 1989. Some have argued, often very quietly, that an unreformed system perpetuates present unfairness in the application of the law and could pose a great danger to Jordan's chosen democratic path.

But how can this be the case? The answer is simply that the prevailing system incorporates a number of distortions, through which the level of parliamentary representation of the largest bloc or party can be artificially inflated. It is therefore possible for the largest party to gain a majority of seats in Parliament without gaining a majority of popular votes. Put most bluntly, this means that the current system is less than fair, not as democratic as it could be and could benefit from electoral reform.

Yet, to what extent is this form of electoral distortion a serious problem? The answer need not be a purely hypothetical one. To the contrary, Jordan is able to benefit from the experience of all countries around the world that have embarked on one form of democratisation or another. Thus, Jordanians can draw on a broad menu of democratic alternatives and, perhaps even more importantly, they can avoid some of the pitfalls experienced in the histories of other democratic experiments.

The turbulent development of Turkish parliamentary democracy may provide a useful case in point. The Turkish system has gone through a series of revisions, each designed to make up for problems encountered in previous electoral laws. These problems were often severe enough that they led to a series of military coups and to the repeated suspension of democratisation in Turkey.

The modern Turkish republic was founded by Mustafa Kemal

Ataturk, who introduced a system of electoral democracy, but that system was limited to a single mobilising party — the Republican Peoples' Party. Ataturk's successor, President Ismet Inonu, implemented the significant change of opening the system to party competition in 1950. At the time only two major parties competed for votes, much like the system in the United States, but this first competitive electoral system included an unintentionally disproportional system of translating the

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popular vote into numbers of parliamentary seats.

The net effect was ultimately dangerous to Turkey's nascent democracy. The bitherto opposition group, the Democrat Party, swept to power by gaining a slim majority of the popular vote. But this translated into overwhelming superiority within the parliament — a level of dominance which came to be abused.

The previously-ruling party, now in the minority, found its presses shut down and its every initiative suppressed by the virtually dictatorial control that the Democrat Party had achieved through the ballot box. This degenerated into a worsening political situation until the military intervened in 1960, bringing Turkish democracy to a temporary end. Such a case, while extreme, makes clear

the dangers inherent in a system of disproportional representation.

After overseeing a major revision in the electoral laws, the military turned power back over to civilians and Turkey resumed its process of democratisation. The new electoral laws were designed to avoid the previous system of disproportional representation with its tendency to create tyranny through democratic means.

The new system, however, erred on precisely the opposite side. It was so radically proportional that the system eventually became swamped with a host of small parties and splinters of parties, increasing the power of radicals, both left and right, and undercutting moderates and centrists. In this way, the second Turkish electoral system is often compared to the system found in Italy today. Although this kind of system can certainly be said to represent a far broader span of political and ideological views, it also tends to prevent any single grouping from gaining an outright majority. Government is invariably achieved through coalitions.

In some cases, this enhances the democratic nature of the parliament, and forces the politics of compromise. Yet, it can also lead to the dangers experienced in the Turkish case, in which the radical ideological pluralism of the parliament led to political paralysis.

No party had a majority, government was virtually deadlocked, and the parliament eventually degenerated into ideological battles that served only to bring legislation and policy-making to a grinding halt. The result was that Turkey experienced two more military interventions as domestic order and security disintegrated, and radicalism became dominant.

These examples from the turbulent Turkish road to democracy may not sound like a democratic path to be emulated, but that is precisely the point: there is no need for Jordan to experience either of these extremes. To the contrary, Jordan can instead examine the revised systems achieved in Turkey and in other countries — while avoiding the painful experiences that led to these revisions.

In the Turkish case, not surprisingly, the current system is intended precisely to avoid either of the extremes outlined above.

Following the 1980 military intervention, in fact, a new system emerged which corrected for the distortions of both types of electoral systems, and this system has brought greater balance and stability to Turkey's electoral life.

To avoid democratically imposed tyranny, the system is based on proportional representation. And to avoid chaos and extremism, the system includes an "eight per cent rule", in which parties must break an eight per cent ceiling in the popular vote before they qualify for parliamentary representation. This allows for a fairly wide spectrum of political views within the parliament, but cuts against small extremist parties — of both the left and the right. Such a system appears to have worked out well in Turkey.

Yet the argument here is not that this or any such system should be a model for Jordan. No system works in quite the same way in any two different places. Egypt, for example, employs a similar eight per cent rule in its parliamentary elections. Yet for those parties that do not gain the required eight per cent, all their votes automatically go to the largest party. This inevitably means that the ruling National Democratic Party of President Hosni Mubarak gains an additional boost in every election.

Therefore the argument offered here is not that Jordan can or should mimic the Turkish system, or for that matter the systems of Egypt, Italy, the United States, or anywhere else. Even a passing look at these various systems shows the remarkable variety in approaches to democracy throughout the world. There is no single most-democratic system; rather, each type carries with it costs as well as benefits, and ultimately these must be measured and adapted to meet the unique needs and characteristics of Jordanian society.

Still, the current system does appear to be in need of some kind of reform. If that point is accepted, then the question re-

mains, of course, just what direction might the electoral reform take. A few possibilities follow which might be worthy of consideration.

1. **One person, one vote.** This is certainly not a new argument in Jordan. Many people have been fighting for electoral reform centered around the idea of "one person, one vote". This is in contrast to the system employed in the 1989 elections, in which each individual could vote for as many representatives as their district contained.

"Regardless of the precise direction of electoral reform, with each improvement undertaken Jordan will surely become more and more of a model of democratisation to other states across the region."

This gave some Jordanians four votes, others nine votes, and so on.

Yet, a system of multiple votes is problematic because it allows a small percentage of the electorate to dominate the outcome. If one group of voters uses its votes to vote for all the candidates of their party, while most others are splitting their votes and voting for independents, it is possible to edge out each of these other candidates.

This does not sound troublesome at first, but it allows a party to gain 100 per cent of a district's representation without having even a quarter of the district's popular vote. A system limiting each voter to one vote for a district representative would prevent this kind of unintended distortion or loop-hole in the system.

2. **Proportional representation.** Allocating parliamentary seats according to the percentage of the popular vote gained by a

party or candidate would increase the democratic nature of Jordan's electoral system. This would not carry with it the same kind of threat of political paralysis experienced in other systems because, unlike Italy or Turkey's second republic, the prime minister in Jordan is not necessarily drawn from Parliament. Therefore, the crises involved in forming coalition governments would not be a factor in Jordanian politics. For the same reason, this suggests that there would be no need to institute any kind of eight per cent rule (or any other threshold number) since in the Jordanian context it would serve only to cut back on Jordan's democracy by needlessly excluding minority political groups.

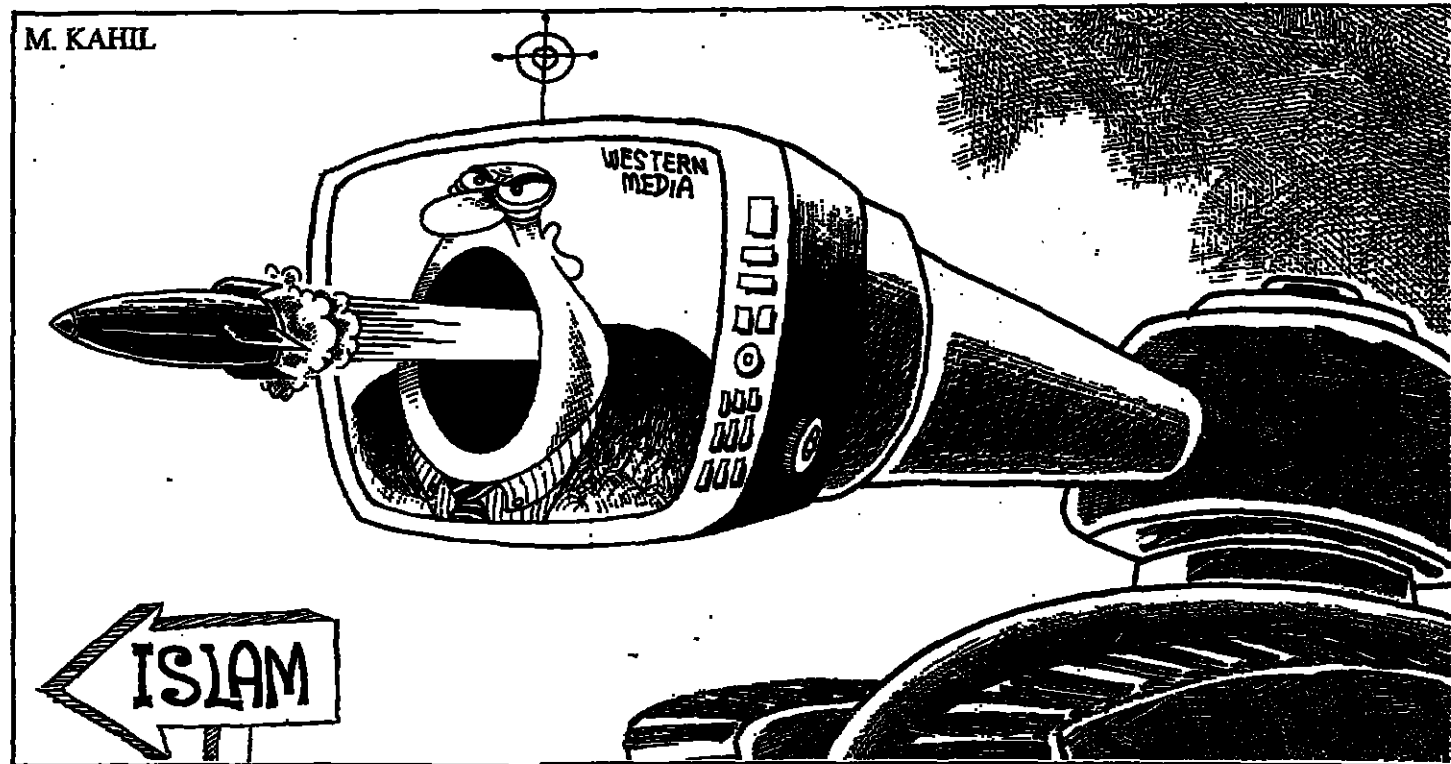
3. **Party lists.** If parties were required to run lists of candidates in each district, ranked in a priority order, it would facilitate the use of a system of proportional representation — by party, by district. A major problem at present, however, has been demonstrated in the results of the recent survey conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies: most Jordanian voters do not want to vote for parties. Yet the dilemma remains that Jordan has moved into a system of multiple political parties and requiring party lists would push these groups towards better organisation and articulation of their platforms as they contest elections in each district. It would make it clearer what each party stands for.

These three areas of reform — one person, one vote; proportional representation; and party lists — would increase the democratic nature of Jordan's electoral system. Whether they are worthy of consideration, much less implementation, is for Jordanians alone to decide. But regardless of the precise direction of electoral reform, with each improvement undertaken Jordan will surely become more and more of a model of democratisation to other states across the region.

The writer, a doctoral student at the University of North Carolina, is currently doing research work in Amman. He contributed the article to the Jordan Times.

The costly road to democracy — fall, rise and learn from experience

By Peter Pikkert



Social reality, according to French historian Fernand Braudel, consists of three layers: "the history of the quasi-immobile of geographic and climatological changes; the 'social layer', of demographic, economic and social changes; and, lastly, the superficial turbulence of daily political and military developments. He rightly believed that the superficial turbulence becomes meaningful once the fundamental structures are grasped. Identification and analysis of some 'longue durée' factors shaping the Middle East might not only give meaning to today's 'superficial turbulence', but also shed light on the way forward.

The demographic demon

Annual population growth in the Middle East averages around three per cent, which means that by the year 2000 there will be, for example, about 260 million Arabs, 59 million Turks and 52 million Iranians. The growth rate of the region's great cities is, however, much higher as they draw large numbers from the often impoverished and in many cases strife-ridden countryside. At least 1,000 people move daily to Cairo, and Istanbul is not far behind. Cairo could well have a population of 18 million by the end of the decade. The forced repatriation of a couple of million Egyptians, Palestinians and Yemenis after the Gulf war has aggravated the problem for a number of countries which could least afford it.

The obvious effects of this mushrooming population of urban poor are swelled ranks of unemployed and underemployed, exorbitant house prices and dangerously high levels of social disorientation and frustration. Malthusian optimists might predict that the average age of marriage will rise and the size of families shrink, but in societies where children are social security this is not true.

An often overlooked long-term result of the population explosion is a drop in literacy rates. Egypt would have to build and staff four classrooms every hour if it wanted to keep up with its annual population growth of 1.3 million. Furthermore, the education systems of war-torn countries like Kuwait, Iraq, Sudan, Palestine and Lebanon have been severely disrupted. This means that more and more people grow completely dependent on electronic media to meet their information and

entertainment needs.

Television and radios are omnipresent in the Middle East, where video sales are among the highest in the world. Dish antennas are sprouting up everywhere. A barrage of Hollywood is not only undermining traditional culture and values, it is sharpening both material and political discontent. Few westerners care about either the morality or the effects western trash has on Middle Eastern cultures.

Islamic fundamentalism — back to the future

Many Islamic revivalists are cashing in on the widespread social discontent. Their shrill propaganda preaches that today's problems are the result of Western decadence. Sharia is the proclaimed panacea and the early days of Islam the example to follow. This fundamentalist wave, though it has already crested in Iran, continues to grow in places like North Africa.

Iran's Islamic revolution is, I believe, typical. Growing mighty on a groundswell of social discontent, it reached its height in the 1979 revolution. Thereafter a reign of terror alienated many Iranians. They had tasted the bitter fruits of Islamic fundamentalism and had lost everything, including their sons in Khomeini's "human waves".

Hundreds of thousands fled their homeland. Their disappointment is slowly filtering through to the masses. Today a thermidorian reaction is slowly replacing the reign of terror. Though still gathering strength in various places, each fundamentalist wave will inevitably crest, leaving a spiritual and ideological vacuum. And nature hates a vacuum.

The Gulf war dealt the coup de grace to Arab nationalism and expanding Islamic fundamentalism is imploding into its own black hole. Materialism, drug abuse and various cults are competing with religion to fill the inner vacuum. Remarkably, unprecedented numbers of Muslims are turning to Christianity. Estimates of Iranians who have forsaken Islam and turned to evangelical Christianity during the last decade run as high as 20,000. During the late '70s there was one small evangelical fellowship in Turkey. Today there are about 12. A growing number of Turkish converts are changing their legal status to "Christian".

While the Orthodox churches are hemorrhaging badly from emigration, this steady growth of small, clandestine groups is spreading throughout the Middle East — even in Saudi Arabia — often at great personal cost to individual converts. Though still insignificant in terms of per-

centage, many missionaries expect the growth of indigenous Christian fellowships to grow dramatically and, more importantly, exercise an influence disproportionate to their numbers.

The vacuum left by the demise of Arab nationalism has also galvanised various nationalist movements, particularly, though not exclusively, among non-Arab ethnic groups. While Kurds, southern Sudanese, western Saharans and Palestinians are fighting central authorities, Lebanon and Iraq face the possibility of cantonisation, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is fast following the Arab League into irrelevance. The Arab World is not only splintered, it is at a political crossroads: One way lies the narrow, uncertain path to western-style democracy, the other the familiar road of despotism, social unrest and economic disaster. Either direction will increase political polarisation.

Political polarisation and western meddling

Political polarisation will increase as huge foreign debts and social unrest force unpopular economic reforms and political restrictions. In Turkey, for instance, both old-style militant left-wing revolutionary groups (PKK, Dev Sol) and Islamic fundamentalist

groups are growing in popularity. Stuck in the middle, western-oriented technocrats attempt to steer the course of plurality and democracy. They know that their country is as vulnerable to western pressure as those countries which opt for despotism are to western military intervention. In Kuwait, Iraq, Somalia or Lebanon (remember those marines in Beirut?) when things get out of hand.

Imposing international conformity on global problems such as the environment, the spread of weapons of mass destruction and AIDS will cause sensitive national egos to bristle. Brandishing the sword of international debt, the West could, for example, force unpopular legislation governing pollution control and nuclear waste disposal. In countries where environmental concern is understandably low, this type of economic imperialism could be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

Fresh water is becoming one of the region's major sources of friction. Israel has long since exhausted its own water supplies and is dependent on its Arab neighbours. Ethiopia is planning a series of dams which will seriously reduce the flow of the Nile at a time when Egypt wants to increase its agricultural potential. Turkey controls every drop that

flows down the Euphrates. At Iraq and Syria's expense, Turkey's GAP (Güney, Anadolu Projesi) project has doubled its electricity generation and is transforming about 20,000 square kilometres of arid desert into fertile farm land. Libya's man-made river and Iraq's "third river" seek to do the same.

Who knows what climatological and demographic changes these massive projects will trigger? Reforestation programmes are already increasing the annual rainfall in Jordan and Syria. New towns and villages, harbingers of hope, are springing up in what was once desert.

The way forward

There is no short cut to democracy. Our own social evolution took centuries and led from feudalism through absolute monarchies, enlightened monarchies, revolutions, despotisms, dictatorships and world wars. Like the child who killed the butterfly by helping it out of its cocoon, imposing democracy on societies not ready for it is fatal. Each country must be permitted to make and experience the results of its own mistakes. That is the costly road to stable democracy. The temptation to intervene directly in the internal affairs of other nations must not be given in to, no matter how repulsive the regime. We can encourage the humanitarian missions of non-governmental agencies, we might stimulate private enterprise, curtail our arms exports and promote educational and cultural exchanges. Internal affairs, however, must remain private business — or else people will never learn.

In international affairs, on the other hand, rex must be rex. For a major power like the U.S. to allow political opportunism and narrow lobbies to dictate which international law and U.N. resolutions it will enforce and which it will ignore or even violate is a symptom of its own political immaturity. When the West learns to apply international law evenhandedly it might earn the respect needed to hold the most honourable position in Middle Eastern society, that of mediator. The "honest broker" aspirant must have the fortitude and patience to let the superficial turbulence run its course, act according to principle and concentrate on root causes. Only then will there be light at the end of a longue durée — Middle East International.

Special issue on historic occasion

THIS IS but a modest effort to portray what is truly a great achievement for Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty the King during the past 40 years.

In this special issue, Jordan Times writers and reporters attempt to shed more light on the personality of the leader who made it all happen, and to analyse the forces and factors that shaped the crucial decisions he made as King. But equally important, perhaps, is another small effort made here to look at the political, social and economic changes that have taken place in the country over the past four decades and the role played by the King's policies in bringing about the transformation of Jordan into a modern, democratic state.

Not only the Jordan Times but the whole spectrum of the Jordanian media are today celebrating the 40th anniversary of the King's assumption of constitutional powers with special issues and programmes. In a sense, though, those efforts will not be enough to give the occasion its due, since what the King above all would like to see is more solid attempts by our media to meet the exigencies of the democratic process and to enrich our experience with an altogether new approach to keep pace with the changing times in our country and the world as a whole.

It might well be argued that the media cannot be but a reflection of a society's progress in the field. In other words, their performance can only improve as fast and well as the political developments taking place in society. Since such arguments can flow continuously in different directions, there can be no ready-made answers to our particular situation here in Jordan. A healthy debate on this and other issues facing us has to be the alternative.

This is neither the occasion nor the place to tackle such debate. The point behind raising the media's handling of important occasions in our history is simply a reminder that no journalistic endeavour can be complete without a parallel effort to dig deep into the causes and symptoms of change or continuity within any society.

While His Majesty and most Jordanians, we are sure, would like to see the emergence of a more vigorous media — a media that are nevertheless committed to objectivity, responsibility and social justice — we nevertheless can all be proud of the tremendous progress that Jordan has made in the information field since the early fifties.

There were times in Jordan's recent history when a government became intolerant of anyone who doubted that its wisdom was the only wisdom consistent with human efficiency, economic order and patriotic reliability. But, overall, nobody can deny the fact that, under His Majesty's leadership, the country now has one of the freest and most technologically advanced media in the Arab World and the Middle East region.

Much remains to be said and told about the King's leadership of this country, for neither this issue nor countless others can alone unveil the richness and depth of this era in our history. For now, however, Jordan's success story has to speak for itself.

George Hawatmeh



King, country and people

A Jordan Times special supplement marking the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of constitutional powers

THE VIEW FROM THE FOURTH DECADE

By Rami G. Khouri

A historical success of personality and principle

ATTEMPTS BY myself and many others this week to assess the state of Jordan and the achievements of His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his assumption of his constitutional powers run two particular risks: a) to focus so intensely on the person of King Hussein that one loses sight of the broader relevant issues that have defined his life, reign and aspirations, and, b) to engage in an exercise of adulation, respect, appreciation and praise that is justified and sincere, but that may miss the point of the larger issues that I believe must be appreciated on this occasion.

It is appropriate — and probably inevitable — that we mark this occasion in a context in which King Hussein himself spearheads sustained public exhortations in Jordan for democracy, pluralism and human rights as the appropriate values and forms of our political culture from now on. An essential aspect of this commitment — perhaps the essential mechanism of democratic pluralism — is the ability of a society to engage in public debate, self-analysis and self-criticism, with a view to reaching a consensus on public policy issues that are accepted by all its members.

In this spirit, it is not only our opportunity and right to assess Jordan today, 40 years after King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional responsibility; it is also our responsibility and our obligation to do so with all the honesty, truth and fairness that we can muster.

History will probably record that King Hussein's greatest achievement was the process of nation-building, of forging a generally viable country out of a variety of smaller components that came together to form the modern state of Jordan.

Jordan in mid-century lacked the three essential components of statehood: a

distinct historical and cultural/political identity, a combination of demographic and economic resources necessary for sustainable economic growth and a modern tradition of urbanism that could drive the process of national development in the fields of culture, politics, economy and identity. Rightly, many people in mid-century doubted Jordan's ability to survive. This was an artificial, small, fragile and vulnerable country in a neighbourhood of giants, thugs and predators.

Today, though, Jordan is an impressive little country — still modest in its national attributes, still dependent on foreign aid, still vulnerable to domestic resource shortages and regional political, economic, ideological and demographic threats, but nevertheless increasingly rational, logical, self-confident and satisfying.

The physical survival of Jordan has been coupled with the psychological development of a distinctly Jordanian identity — an inevitable reflection of the fragmentation of the broader Arab/Islamic identity after World I into smaller identities encapsulated in modern states. Jordan's is one of the more successful examples of Arab states that have started to develop a modern political identity, while holding together their new national configuration without succumbing to the ravages of rebellion, severe oppression, economic collapse, total dependence on foreign sources of protection and assistance or disintegration.

The reasons why this has happened can be largely related to the personality and determination of King Hussein, and two particular and inter-related trends in this respect stand out in my mind: security and human development.

Modern Jordan has always emphasised the maintenance of internal security as the imperative condition for national de-

velopment; Jordanian governments and kings have not hesitated to apply decisive internal security doctrines when they thought that internal peace and security were threatened. Security was the condition deemed vital for the other foundation of modern Jordanian life, which is human development. By human development, I mean an emphasis on providing individuals, families and communities with equitable access to the basic necessities of life, such as education, health care, water, shelter, social services and the freedom to travel and work at will.

The value of our modern legacy of strong human development has become self-evident in recent years, especially when we compare Jordan with the rest of Middle East. The stability, resilience, self-confidence, moderation, rationality and productivity that characterise Jordan are not a consequence of minerals in our water or chemicals in the air; they are the consequence of ideas in our minds and values in our historical and communal conscience — especially the idea that human dignity and national stability are best assured by providing people with equitable access to their basic life needs.

The importance of human development cannot be over-emphasised in any analysis of Jordan's modern history. It remains perhaps the central formative principle in the character and political history of the country — one could even go so far as to say that human development is our only distinct Jordanian national ideology.

Of course, Islam, Arabism, the policies of King Hussein and the Hashemite Monarchy, the Constitution, the National Charter and other expressions of Jordanian identity, values and policy principles are important determinants of who we are, what we believe, and where we hope to go in the future. But they are all statements of principles and values. They do not provide a programmatic blueprint for policy

decisions and they do not define precisely how we will spend our money and set our priorities in real life, rather than on paper or in our minds. I suspect that history will credit modern Jordan, and especially King Hussein, with building a country where none existed before, by bringing together human and natural resources in a coalition of forces that was united by its commitment to a concept of a humane society and a vision of satisfying and decent life in an Arab/Islamic context. This is a very big achievement, even if it happens in a relatively small country such as ours.

King Hussein guided and stimulated this achievement, but he did not accomplish it single-handedly. It was achieved by a combination of forces representing all sectors of society, with partnerships extending into other Arab and

security was emphasised in the period from 1956 to 1989 because regional threats were deemed too strong to be allowed to run their course without a rational defensive response from within, for there was a real fear that external pressures would exploit internal politics to such a point that statehood itself might be threatened.

The strict security policy of the third part of the century — roughly 1957-1989 — combined with sustained government emphasis on human development, brought the country to an inevitable turning point. This occurred in 1988/89, when security was once again defined in a more narrow sense and political pluralism was rekindled.

Two important things happened in 1988/89. The disengagement from the West Bank allowed a crystallisation of the

The historical achievement of King Hussein in the last 40 years, I would suggest, has been his capacity to understand — perhaps consciously, perhaps through the unconscious gut feelings and intuition that are inherent in successful leaders — that a balance must be struck between the twin imperatives of security and human development. He has been able to strike a consistently reasonable balance between these two forces and to adjust that balance when required.

foreign countries that shared our values and goals. He provided guidance, set the example and generated the necessary material resources that were required to maintain our forward progress.

The historical achievement of King Hussein in the last 40 years, I would suggest, has been his capacity to understand — perhaps consciously, perhaps through the unconscious gut feelings and intuition that are inherent in successful leaders — that a balance must be struck between the twin imperatives of security and human development. He has been able to strike a consistently reasonable balance between these two forces and to adjust that balance when required.

Therefore, political pluralism and ideological diversity were accepted in the first few years of his reign, but then

geographical and political identity of Jordan as an East Bank state; this in turn eliminated the constitutional problem of holding elections because of the occupation of the West Bank (from where 30 deputies were chosen to sit in the Jordanian Parliament).

The political and administrative disengagement from Palestine, combined with the high rate of human development in Jordan, made it inevitable that a new era of political evolution would have to be launched in Jordan. The gap between economic development and political development had widened glaringly in the decades to 1989, and tensions erupted in the demonstrations of April 1989.

King Hussein's decision to hold parliamentary elections in 1989 and to move the country on the path of democratic, pluralistic liberalisation was in-

triguing then because most of the people in Jordan were not necessarily asking for democracy — they mainly wanted lower fees and prices, and less heavy-handedness by the executive branch of government.

The nation-building talents of the King were evident, though, in his decision. He understood that long-term national durability and quality of life for Jordanians could not be assured only by the combination of security and human development. The country had reached the stage where political participation was necessary on a scale more significant and more institutionalised than it had been in the previous decades.

In historical terms, the King's decision to democratise in 1989 was based on his instinctive appreciation of two vital facts: The country and the people were ready for this shift because of the previous focus on human development and education, and this shift was absolutely vital because the discrepancy between material and political development was unsustainable in the long run. His particular insight into the imperatives of nation-building and national durability, due to his own humanistic values and long experience, compelled him to recognise the timely importance of striking this new balance among security, human development and political development.

The consequence of these processes is that Jordan today is probably the most important example of an Arab/Islamic country that is moving ahead systematically, peacefully and rationally on the path to forging a new Arab/Islamic/Semite political culture that is stable, responsive, authentic and decent — and therefore it will probably be durable and satisfactory to its people, and attractive as a model for others in this region.

King Hussein must be given the lion's share of credit for the impressive status of Jordan as a country and its honourable values as a political culture and an Arab/Islamic community, because he has consistently given our country the combination of decisive leadership and political and moral values that are the vital underpinning for our current national progress.

In the final analysis, Jordan and King Hussein's reign cannot be judged in isolation from the broader modern Arab

experience. The hard work still lies ahead. The real challenge we face today, and that King Hussein alludes to in his public speeches, is to continue working for the goals and the values that Arabs have worked for since the Arab awakening at the turn of the century. His own historical mission is clear: to develop the small country of Jordan as a spearhead of the larger goals and rights that were the objective of the Arab awakening and the Great Arab Revolt in the period around 1900-1920.

This is a long-term enterprise that will be measured in decades and perhaps even centuries. It is not the work of individuals, but rather of our entire Arab/Islamic community and nation. King Hussein will be credited by history for rejecting the temptation of isolating Jordan from its national and cultural pan-Arab hinterland and developing it as an isolated island of stability, humane governance, and human decency.

Therefore, it is axiomatic and historically inevitable that we celebrate the 40th anniversary of King Hussein's reign amidst calls for the lessons of Jordan to be appreciated on a regional Arab basis. This is evident in King Hussein's drive to spread the values and benefits of democracy, pluralism and human rights throughout the Arab World, by setting the example and continuously repeating our commitment to these principles and values.

Throughout most of his 40 years on the throne, King Hussein has been preoccupied with the imperatives of nation-building and national survival in the midst of a turbulent and often violent region; that goal has been achieved against great odds and serious constraints. Therefore, in the last four years he has adroitly shifted the emphasis of Jordanian national development to the goals of enriching, deepening and sustaining the achievements of the recent past. His strengths as a leader and as a human being are more obvious today, in view of Jordan's impressive condition, and these strengths will probably have a greater impact on other societies in the Middle East in the years to come.

The last 40 years suggest that King Hussein's instincts and policies have been appropriate and productive. Mistakes were

made, as he himself has admitted in interviews and public statements. But who has not made mistakes? The true measure of leadership by individuals, of rationality by entire national communities, and of authenticity and durability of political cultures is the capacity to learn from the past, and to develop future strategies that are humane and effective.

I think the most impressive aspect of King Hussein's reign has been the decisive manner in which he has made the big decisions of the last four years — to disengage from Palestine, to democratise internally, to stand firm on principles during the Gulf crisis, to launch a painful but necessary economic adjustment programme and to place Jordan squarely in the vortex of the regional and the global drive for stable and productive nations that value democracy, human rights, international cooperation and pluralism.

King Hussein did not have to do these things, and he could have opted to fall back on the old formula of security and human development. That would have been the easy course, but it probably would not have worked, because the gap between material and political development had grown too wide. He recognised the fundamental human aspirations of his people; he also recognised that these aspirations coincided almost exactly with his own instincts as a human being, and his own historical responsibility as the standard-bearer of the principles of Arab freedom, dignity and unity that have guided his family, his people and his culture for the last century.

The King's talents as a leader, his vision as an Arab, his moral legacy as a Muslim and his compassion as an individual human being all compelled him to make the hard choices that most other contemporary Arab leaders probably would have shunned.

This is probably why he has reigned for such a long time, and why he celebrates his 40th year on the throne as a leader with an unparalleled modern Arab combination of composure, confidence, legitimacy, credibility and the affection and respect of his people as well as of many others in the region and throughout the world.

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A true leader — not a survivalist

By Taher Hikmat

HOW CAN a leader from a Third World country rule for 40 years, in an ever turbulent region that has never witnessed stability, and at the same time continue to enjoy tremendous popular support? How can this leader turn his rule into a symbol for his country's unity, progress and continuity? How can a man's leadership become a popular demand of both the masses and the whole political spectrum? How can a ruler of 40 years manage to stay on top of all changes and above all rivalries, corruption and decadence?

These are some, but not all, the questions that come to mind on the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers.

Some writers and analysts have attempted to attribute the King's success to his capability and skill in playing the survival game. But I find their theory lacking in credibility and in proper understanding of the institutions of government in this country.

Those who believe in "the survivalist theory" fail to understand, or altogether ignore, some basic facts of life in the history of this country.

First, King Hussein has not only been the ruler of Jordan but also the architect of its development, turning it from a small dependent state into a modern country with remarkable regional and international presence. The King has overseen the transformation of Jordan from a nomadic, agricultural community into an urban society capable of dealing with all forms of economic and political hardships. King Hussein was the man who steered Jordan to safety during all phases of international and regional polarisation and skillfully managed the conflict with Israel with-

out giving up any of the nation's legitimate rights.

Second, the King is not only a politician and manager of state affairs. He is a man of vision with a rich political insight. His enlightened and progressive vision surpasses in depth and richness that of all Jordanian politicians who have worked with him over the years. He is the man who masterfully steered Jordan through the rough seas of the Middle East to the shores of democracy and popular participation. In all objectivity, any neutral observer would testify that the King's vision for the future and deep understanding of the nature of political changes have always been stronger than that of his prime ministers, ministers and advisors. This ability to look ahead is what enables King Hussein to remain at the helm, building a modern state of values and institutions. He alone is responsible for the decision that took Jordan into the modern democratic world. He often took initiatives that at the time alienated politicians, and his ideas and moves were often dismissed as unnecessary. But his actions proved more often than not consistent with the needs and aspirations of society, and they worked to the benefit of the people.

"(King Hussein's) traits and capabilities are befitting of a leader who symbolises the spirit and aspirations of his nation, a leader who has guided his country through hard and difficult times..."

Third, the King, with his refined political and human sense, has invariably presented a workable mechanism for effective change in Jordan, especially in the absence of institutions that would normally shoulder such task. But even after those institutions were formed and empo-

wered to carry out their mission, the people continued to look to the King for genuine guidance, and change where necessary.

King Hussein always perceived change and the need for it as a socio-political process. He thus introduced change not for its own sake but as means towards an end.

Fourth, the King has always insisted that he is the leader of all Jordanians and all political and social factions and groupings. He always realised that a balance had to be maintained among all the political and social powers and that inflating the role of the army would be wrought with danger.

Fifth, he made it a doctrine not to rely in pursuing his domestic policies exclusively on certain powers in the country, fully recognising the danger inherent in

society anyway.

Seventh, the Monarch's understanding of the nature of international politics and its trappings has consistently been accurate and deep. The King has had to deal with eight U.S. presidents, 10 British prime ministers and another large number of Western and Third World leaders. He enjoys the friendship and respect of many world leaders with whom he is in constant contact. King Hussein is also open to world cultures and has a sophisticated understanding of international relations and the role of the media and communications in shaping the international order.

The King has always refused to isolate himself or Jordan from the rest of the world and he is the perfect example of tolerance. He has always advocated interaction among cultures and constantly warned against conflict among different civilisations. He is a firm believer in the originality and authenticity of the Arab/Muslim culture and its ultimate ability to meet the present challenges.

All these traits and capabilities are befitting of a leader who symbolises the spirit and aspirations of his nation, a leader who has guided his country through hard and difficult times, in a world in which the weak and the short-sighted have no place.

History has proven that it does not have respect or good fortune for opportunists and mere survivalists. History reserves place for those who lead their peoples towards progress and stability. King Hussein Ben Talal cannot simply be a master of survival. He is a real leader and a hero of the nation.

Taher Hikmat is a prominent lawyer who served as a member of cabinet in former Jordanian governments.



Jordan's economic 'miracle'

Many changes have taken place in Jordan since His Majesty King Hussein assumed his constitutional powers in 1953. In this article, Fahed Fanek describes in figures the economic transformation that the country has witnessed over the past 40 years.

A COMPARISON between Jordan of 40 years ago and Jordan of today suggests that the figures may not actually refer to the same country and such huge changes might have not taken place over not one or two but many generations.

Nevertheless an economic miracle has been in the making in this country. Figures documented by the Department of Statistics tell the whole story.

In 1952, the population of the East Bank of Jordan was 587,193. Since then, the figure has increased seven fold, to exceed four million, an annual growth rate of 4.9 per cent, one of the highest in the world.

The number of school teachers was 379. There were 29,981 students. The number of students in classrooms today is 50 times that figure. This is an annual growth rate of 10.3 per cent.

In 1952 the number of medical doctors in the country, working for both the private and public sectors, reached 80; of which 40 were in Amman, 15 in Irbid, 6 in Salt, 5 in Karak, 3 in Ajloun, and one in each Tafilah, Ma'an and Aqaba. Other medical professionals were 17 dentists, 49 pharmacists and 77 nurses. Today Jordan has some 10,000 doctors practising in all fields of medicine, as well as many more thousands of dentists, pharmacists, nurses and medical technicians.

As far as foreign trade was concerned, imports stood at JD 14.2 million, while exports were only JD 1.28 million. The value of re-exports amounted to a quarter of a million. Thus, the trade deficit was JD 12.7 million. Since then imports rose 140 times (including changes in prices), a nominal growth rate of 13 per cent a year. Exports rose 690 times, a growth rate of 17.8 per cent a year.

Looking at the balance of payments for the year 1952, we find that the total receipts of the country in foreign exchange reached Sterling pounds 10.2 million, including pounds 3.36 million being the British subsidy to the Army's budget.

The total currency in circulation 40 years ago was no more than JD 8.76 million, which increased 118 fold to reach JD 1,040 million at the present time, an annual growth rate of 12.7 per cent.

In the meanwhile, total assets



The number of asphalt roads in Jordan rose from 1400 in the 1950s to about 14,000 in 1993

of the Jordanian banking system by the end of 1952 were around JD 15.6 million, compared to JD 6.3 billion now, i.e. 400 times, or an annual growth rate of 16.2 per cent. Banking credit facilities at the same time did not exceed JD 6.9 million compared to JD 2,335 million now, or 338 times more, a growth rate of 15.6 per cent a year.

Referring to the central government budget (1952), we find public expenditure of JD 20.5 million and general revenues amounting to JD 22.25 million. Thus leaving a surplus of JD 1.45 million, which was added to the treasury reserves. The present day's budget is 72 times bigger, an annual growth rate of 11.3 per cent.

Asphalt roads in Jordan were no longer than 1400 kilometres, they are ten times more now. The number of arrivals and departures by air were 28.6 thousand, compared to around 1.5 thousand this year, over 50 times more. The paid up capital of all forms of companies was JD 13.8 million owned by a total of 485 partners and shareholders. The capitalisation of the market now is JD 2.5 billion owned by some half a million shareholders, a growth of 20,000 per cent.

The prevailing level of wages for non-skilled labourers was 222 fils a day in Amman and 184 fils in Irbid. The average of daily wages for agricultural labourers was 182 fils in ordinary times, and up to 229 fils a day during the

season. Those who now earn 20 times that figure are considered to be living below the line of poverty.

These were some indicators of the economic and social life in Jordan since King Hussein assumed his constitutional powers to the present day.

In 1952, Jordan was among the most backward countries in the Arab World, with an image of a largely bedouin society. In 1993, Jordan is one of the most advanced countries in the Middle East region, and a leader in the quest for human rights and democracy and culture.

If this transformation does not resemble an economic miracle, we do not know what actually does.

The first 40 years: An appreciation of a struggle that has to continue

By Dr. Maan Abu Nowar

TOO YOUNG, extremely keen, bereft of any experience in government or command. His Majesty King Hussein on May 2, 1953, when he promised the Nation in Parliament to respect and uphold the Constitution and be loyal to the Nation.

To appreciate what the young King faced on that historic day, one must think of the men he had to deal with and all the problems he had to tackle in order to achieve his dream of a modern and viable Kingdom, by the people and for the people of Jordan, and to serve the Arab Nation.

The men he had to deal with in the cabinet were old enough to be his grandfathers. The majority in Parliament were more than three times his age; they were the products of Ottoman rule and way of life. His army was commanded by foreign senior officers and junior Jordanian officers, thirty or forty of whom had a tawjihi education, and the rest far below that standard; and a nation with a very small minority of university graduates, a minority of tawjihi graduates and a majority of semi-illiterates and illiterates.

The vast majority of women were denied their basic rights and enjoyed only a marginal role in society. Women had no political rights whatsoever, and the vast majority were illiterate.

The problems were huge and many: financial, economic, political and strategic. With a meagre budget, mainly buttressed by a British grant-in-aid, progress was extremely limited. The economy was weak, unorganised, and out-of-date.

Politics stood still in the era of the sheikhs and notables, mixed with party politics of a very limited membership and experience; and a strategy bereft of resources, direction and clear aims. In international relations,



Young Emir Hussein (right) stands next to his grandfather, the late King Abdullah and the late Prince Nayef (left)

the King inherited all the suspicions directed against Jordan because of the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty, Glubb Pasha and the presence of British officers in the army. Egypt was still suffering the turmoil of the 1952 revolution, with a new dictatorship in the making. Syria was on the verge of yet another revolution. Lebanon was a nest for the spies of the Cold War and an arena for covert jousts between the various and conflicting Arab as well as foreign interests. Saudi Arabia supported Egypt and Syria against Jordan and had no vision for the future. Although Iraq was Hashemite and anti-Communist, it did not help Jordan and may have been indifferent to its future.

The Gulf sheikhdoms were indirectly ruled by Whitehall with little competition from Washington.

The rest of the Arab World was in turmoil.

The closest to the Jordanians were the Palestinians in one unity state, but they were suffering from the emotional, political, economic and moral impact of the catastrophe of the 1948 war. Jordan shouldered the burden of defending a front which exceeds 650 kilometres in length against Israeli continued night raids on the frontier villages of the West Bank, as well as having to watch borders with unfriendly brothers. The lack of weapons, ammunitions, and troops, as well as the outdated organisation and concept of defence which existed at the time, was more than any man could handle under the threats of war which hung over the region for many years.

The suffering inflicted on both Jordanians and

Palestinians, because of the mass Palestinian refugee problems in three wars later, was immeasurable. With meagre help from Arab and foreign sources, the Jordanians made all the sacrifices needed to make their Palestinian brothers welcome in their homes and camps until arrangements were made for some comfort, but there was complete safety and security. Thus the population of Jordan was doubled in one decade; and sadness, poverty, and lack of infrastructure were shared equally with great sense of duty.

If it is true that nations achieve their aims only under a strong, dedicated and courageous leadership. King Hussein provided that kind of leadership to his people and his Hashemite Kingdom. He led from the front and showed a good example of what needed to be done and how it should be done. From the fringes of nowhere, he led Jordan to safety, security and to an accepted role in regional and world affairs. No matter what the challenges ahead, he faced them with persistence and perseverance, with wisdom and prudence and with the courage of humanity, indeed polity.

To understand the qualities and values of King Hussein's leadership thus far, one has to examine his achievements for Jordan, by comparing what we are now with what we were in 1953, and indeed for some of his Arab brothers in the way of support, service and example which he provided during his first 40 years.

Let us pray that the next 40 years will see him and us with the humanity, decency and peace for which he struggled with all his heart and mind.

The writer is a historian and scholar who for many years served Jordan as army officer, police commander and cabinet member.

From turmoil, uncertainty to democracy, stability

By Dr. Jamal Shaer

AS JORDAN celebrates the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional power, so will it reflect on four difficult decades that started with political turmoil and many uncertainties but culminated in solid steps towards democratisation.

In 1953 Jordan is preparing for its second parliamentary elections in four years with political parties not only allowed to compete for a share of the political cake but also publicly committed to a set of principles on which both they and the monarchy are agreed.

That on its own stands as a strong sign of a healthy process of political maturity. But the magnitude of its significance can be fully appreciated only when Jordan's political life in the nineties is compared to the early beginnings in the fifties when the then 18-year-old King Hussein took the helm of a country still far from identified with a political character and challenged by uncertainties that had swept the whole of the Arab east.

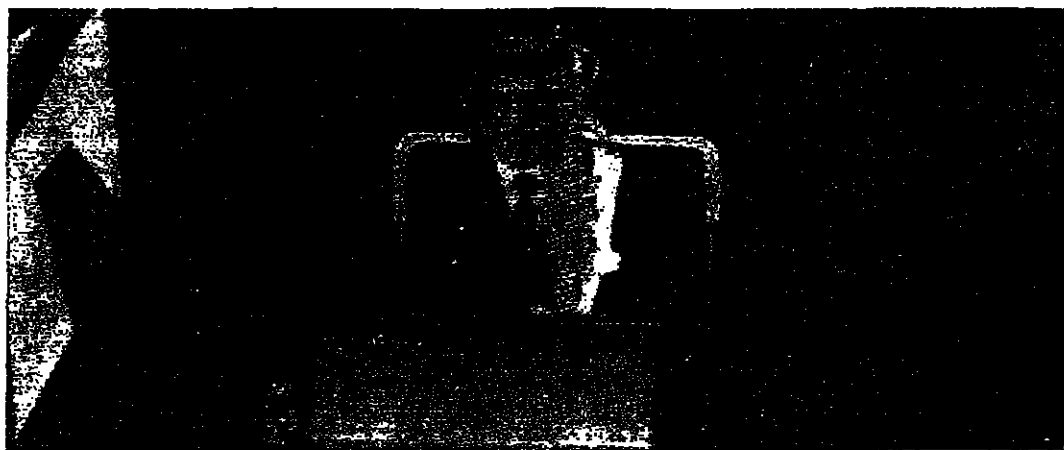
But even though Jordan has developed its unique and individual political character that distinguishes it from its neighbouring countries, it has always been influenced by the events and attitudes that emerge in other parts of the Arab World. This is as true today as it was in the early days of the King's reign.

When King Hussein returned from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, England, to assume his constitutional duties as King of Jordan, he had to steer his young state through the often violent and deep changes that were creating new realities all over the region.

In Jordan, a new institution was just starting to face a paradox since its rectification following the union between Jordan and part of Palestine. On the one hand, the new alliance was to reflect the advanced political life and organisation of experienced Palestinians and Trans-Jordanians leading a process of political enlightenment.

But on the other, the new union was to overcome the obstacle created by a traditional movement which was led by then Prime Minister Tawfiq Abu Al Huda and relied on the support of Glubb Pasha, the British chief of staff who mobilised many tribes and the army to forge the elections of 1951.

The elections, however, brought to Parliament progressive and liberal personalities as well as Arab nationalists and members of a broad alliance led by Hazza' Al Majali who had formed a strong parliamentary



King Hussein addresses a joint session of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament

opposition.

A slow change in the masses' political preference that developed after the Arab defeat in the 1948 war and the support that the late Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser was enjoying as the pan-Arab leader across the Arab World eventually weakened the base of the traditionalists and friends of the West and strengthened the leftist nationalists led by Suleiman Al Nabulsi, the Free Officers Movement and other radicals like Baathists and the Communists.

Understanding the changes, King Hussein fired Glubb Pasha and the government held new parliamentary elections. The national Socialist Party, led by Mr. Nabulsi, won more than half of the seats and King Hussein asked Mr. Nabulsi to form a new government even though he himself did not win a seat in Parliament.

A period of instability and struggle for power followed and was fuelled by the immaturity of political parties, foreign support for the opposition, frustration over the defeats in Palestine and the political ambitions of the military.

The people grew more frustrated with the political chaos created by the government and the turmoil in the military continued to grow.

Adding to the instability of the country were regional events between 1957 and 1967, such as the Nasser coup in Egypt, the Egyptian-Syrian union, the animosity between the United Arab Republic and Iraq and, finally, the breakdown of the union between Damascus and Cairo.

These events prompted the King, especially after the 1959 attempted coup, to adopt a new approach and he asked the late Wasfi Al Tal to form a new government in 1962.

Mr. Tal initiated a process of reform but he was opposed by the regime in Egypt after the republican coup in Yemen against a regime that was supported by

Jordan, Britain and Saudi Arabia. A Baathist coup in Iraq in 1963 and a similar one in Syria led to the formation of a new Jordanian government that supported Nasser against Syria and Iraq.

Mr. Tal started another process of reform when he formed a new government in 1965 and was able to pass a law of amnesty pardoning political prisoners and lifting a house arrest that had been enforced against Mr. Nabulsi.

Political parties, however, insisted on challenging the monarchy and continued the fight among themselves and thus a less tolerant government was formed. Elections were also held in 1967 but they were boycotted. At the time, the Arab scene was marked by hectic upheavals which led to the catastrophe of 1967.

After the June war of that year, the state announced martial laws but its power continued to weaken. Political parties started looking for new ways of functioning and a meeting to form a national union front was announced by Mr. Nabulsi. This effort was this time supported by the King himself.

But this process came to a halt, however, after the emergence of Palestinian armed movements that took over the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in 1969 as political parties, many directed and supported by outside powers, were only too willing to concede to the new movements.

By September 1970, the scene was ready for confrontation between Jordan and the armed factions of the PLO. The fighting eventually led to the end of the presence of armed PLO factions in Jordan.

Prime Minister Tal then formed a new government to deal with the situation but his assassination in Egypt in 1972 coupled with the death of Nasser and the decision of the Rabat Arab Summit late in 1970 on the repre-

sentation of Palestinians necessitated new policies and Parliament was suspended.

These events, in addition to the 1973 October war, planted the seeds for new thinking in the Arab World but mainly in Jordan. It was based on the assumption that the failure of the nationalist programme of the forties had led to the loss of Palestine and to political oppression and abuse of power in the Arab World.

The new Jordanian political outlook, in the absence of Parliament, also led to the establishment of the Consultative Council and the formation of a new government headed by the late Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf in 1978.

Sharif Sharaf died in 1980 and many major events took place on the local and regional scenes: Iraqi-Syrian relations deteriorated, the Iran-Iraq war began and ties were severed with the West Bank. The economic situation in Jordan also worsened with the drop in the value of the dinar and the increase of foreign debts. Frustration was so wide spread that it didn't come as a shock that some riots would start somewhere in Jordan.

It was only few hours after the eruption of the Maan riots for economic reform in 1989 that the whole of the country was urging democratisation.

Yet again, the King was quick to realise the need for change and soon put the country on the right track. He called new parliamentary elections and urged national reconciliation under his guidance.

The political stability and freedom that Jordan enjoys today are the fruit of that farsightedness. And when 17 political parties compete for parliamentary seats in the next elections, expected to be held later this year, they will be shaping the face of the next stage of Jordan's democratisation, consolidating the beginning of a process that was started in earnest.

Dr. Jamal Shaer is a veteran Jordanian politician and a former member of Cabinet

Minorities: harmony in diversity

By Ayman Al Safadi

IN THE EARLY days of the Kingdom when Jordan was what anthropologists describe as "a face-to-face community" characterised by personalistic relations rather than broad-based participation, minorities played their role in the building of the nation as full citizens with complete civic and religious rights.

Many decades and tremendous social, economic and political changes later, the country's ethnic and religious minorities still feel no discrimination, and, to a great extent, receive the same treatment and enjoy the same rights that members of the mainstream Sunni/Muslim/Arabs majority enjoy, members of minorities and experts say.

When the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein crossed the Hijaz desert into Jordan and later in 1921 formed the Emirate of Transjordan, his legitimacy derived from the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, which sought a united Arab Nation, and his Hashemite heritage which rendered him an acceptable leader to all Muslims.

Hence, the late King was accepted by non-Muslim Arabs and non-Arab Muslims who rallied behind him. As he began the process of building Jordan as a nation-state, King Abdullah relied on all able members of society regardless of their ethnic and religious backgrounds.

At that time, loyalty to the monarch and what he stood for was the determining factor in the integration of groups and individuals into society as well as government.

The first prime minister of King Abdullah was a member of Druse minority, Rashid Tali; the small Circassian community that lived in Amman contributed many cabinet members and politicians and the Christian Jordanians played a major role in the country's political life, providing ministers, senior officials and army officers.

When His Majesty King Hussein took the helm of the young Kingdom in 1952, he not only maintained but also strengthened the regime's non-discriminatory policies towards minorities, according to their protection and guaranteeing their rights.

"The monarch has always been sensitive to and aware of the existence of minorities in society and made many statements asserting that they are part of it," says Seteney Shami, professor of anthropology at Yarmouk University.

And as Jordan progressed from a small community where



King Hussein listens to a speech by his first prime minister, Rashid Tali, after being sworn in as King

individuals' concerns were addressed through their traditional leaderships' links with the monarchy to a more sophisticated state with developed political institutions, the rights of minorities were guaranteed through laws which granted them full representation in government institutions and the various arms of the state.

Both Dr. Shami and political analyst Rami Khouri point to the "quota" system in Parliament which preserves seats for the country's Christian minority and other ethnic groups.

This quota system, says Mr. Khouri, clearly reflects the country's conscious acceptance of minorities and recognition of their rights. But while the quota system guaranteed minorities' representation in Parliament, "it locked people into their identity," says Dr. Shami.

This extra-legal system of quotas, which also applies to government posts, frustrated some members of society who saw their chances of advancing in government determined by their origin rather than by their performance, some analysts say.

"If one member of a social group is represented in one cabinet," says one social scientist, "other members of the group see no hope in advancing because their group's quota is filled."

This system, however, is an inevitable outcome of the demographic composition and political realities of society. The King had to strike a balance among all sectors of the community, those analysts point out. They also say that the unwritten law of quotas in government positions applies to minorities as well as to different groups within the Sunni/Muslim/Arab majority in society.

These factors, the analysts add, account for the increased immigration among certain minorities who leave the country not to escape social or political discrimination but in pursuit of better materialistic rewards which they think are hard to obtain within the Jordanian system.

Some social scientists also cite fear of emergence of radical Islam in the region as a root of a growing sense of insecurity among the Christian minority in Jordan. This feeling, however, is part of regional developments that will have always affected Jordan regardless of the domestic policies it adopts.

"There is a growing fear of Islamic radicalisation, a fear of something crazy in the future," that is affecting all religious minorities in the region, one observer says. At this point, he says, religious rather than ethnic identity is the important factor. To allay this fear, more attention to the quality of people's political rights should be paid, he says.

Mr. Khouri says government should strengthen the structures of civic society and political rights so that people's rights can be guaranteed. What Mr. Khouri calls Jordan's "humane policies" towards minorities, however, allowed them to integrate into society while at the same time maintain their separate cultural and religious identities. On the cultural level, one analyst says, minorities have had the total freedom of maintaining their culture and this is evidenced by the existence of ethnic and religious schools and institutions that promote the identities and heritage of minorities.

While these groups have been integrated into society as Jordanians, their identities did not corrode, the analysts say. "People always carry with them multiple identities," said Dr. Shami. "A sensitive and humane Jordanian policy towards minorities gave them the freedom to carry all their identities and at the same time be part of the one larger society."

Jordanian-Palestinian relations back on track

By P.V. Vivekanand

DRAMATIC CHANGES in the international scene, the Middle East peace process and the democratisation of Jordan have worked together to bring Jordanian-Palestinian relations back on a solid track after years of mutual suspicions, mistrust and even military clashes.

To say Jordanian-Palestinian relations have seen ups and downs is an understatement. Eventually, however, they have withstood the test of time, as both Jordanians and Palestinians are now poised to strike the best deal between any two Arab peoples.

Most analysts and observers are unanimous that the only viable option for the peoples of the two banks of the River Jordan is a confederation, but that has to come after the various dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict are addressed and definitely not as a solution imposed by external forces.

His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly affirmed that it was premature to discuss the issue until the conflict with Israel is resolved. At one point, after the Middle East peace process was launched in Madrid in October 1991, the King indirectly admonished Palestinian leaders who sought to bring the subject to the surface and discuss it before reaching a settlement with the Israelis.

In fact, King Hussein's decision to renounce all ter-

ritorial claims to the West Bank in July 1988 and the liberalisation process launched in the East Bank one year later have worked together not only towards smoothing Jordanian-Palestinian relations but also bringing about a fundamental change in the notion that the Palestinians were not looking to Jordan for political leadership.

"Some of the younger generation in the occupied territories may resist the idea of a Jordanian political leadership, but what they do not realise is that there is no clear separation between Jordanians and Palestinians," says Mohammad Milhem, a former mayor of Halhoul who was expelled by the Israeli authorities in 1981.

"It is only a matter of time before they realise that there cannot be any such separation," he says. "There is no political or economic future for the Palestinians without Jordan and the Jordanian content in Palestinian life and the Palestinian content in Jordanian life are so strong that it is impossible to draw any line between them."

"King Hussein always talks about the one Jordanian family, and I am one of those who understands it to mean both Jordanians and Palestinians and the need to preserve and nurture the links between them at all levels," Mr. Milhem says.

The deported mayor, who maintains close contacts with people and developments in the occupied territories, shares the observation of other



Taber Al Masri

analysts that there is a growing admiration for the democratisation process in Jordan among the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"Jordan represents the only true democracy in the Arab World despite its relative infancy and the levels it has to reach," he says. "This is understood and admired by the Palestinians who have seen the experiences of the so-called democracies elsewhere in the Arab World."

According to Dr. Mustafa Hamarneh, Director of the Strategic Studies Centre at Jordan University, Jordan's refusal to endorse a military option to end the Gulf crisis marked the most significant turning point in Palestinian political perceptions of the Kingdom.

"It signalled a total change in the Palestinian view," Dr. Hamarneh says. "Serious questions were raised over earlier percep-



Mohammad Milhem

tions of Jordan, and the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship underwent a positive change."

Dr. Hamarneh believes that the so-called Jordanian-Palestinian rift, particularly after the armed civil conflict in the Kingdom in 1970, owed its beginnings "not to ethnic origins or place of birth but to politics and Jordan's priorities as an independent entity and its needs on the regional and international levels."

As such, Jordan's rejection of the war against Iraq, which linked its occupation of Kuwait with Israel's occupation of Arab territories, was highly appreciated by the Palestinians, who saw the Jordanian street hosting pro-Iraqi demonstrations in the first display of sentiments which did not fall in line with the thinking of the oil-rich Gulf states, notes Dr. Hamarneh.

It brought about a fun-

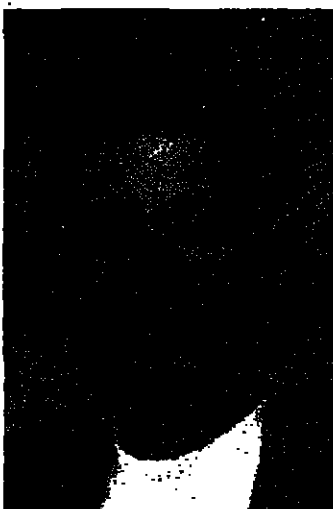


Nayef Hawatmeh

damental shift in Palestinian thinking, which had seen Jordan's opposition to a military solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and its efforts for a negotiated settlement with the Jewish state as aimed at regaining territorial control of the West Bank. This line of thinking overlooked the fact that the Kingdom's approach to the conflict and its policies were very much consistent with the political course of moderation and dialogue that it has practised for many decades, Dr. Hamarneh maintained.

The Kingdom's historic decision in July 1988 to sever all administrative and legal links with the West Bank, which it controlled until Israel seized it in the 1967 war, cleared the way for the Palestinians to assume control of their political options.

Since then, Jordan has consistently affirmed that it



Mustafa Hamarneh

would not speak for or act on behalf of the Palestinian people and that it would support whatever decisions the Palestinians adopt in determining their political future.

But what fits in most with the political outlook of the Palestinians is the fact that they are seeing for themselves the evolution of a dynamic democracy in Jordan, holding out the promise of equal opportunity for every citizen regardless of origin or place of birth — something that is nearly unheard of anywhere else in the Arab World, according to various analysts.

Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), shares the view that events within Jordan and on the regional scene in the past four years have done away with most of the mutual distrust and suspicions between Jordanians

and Palestinians. "It could easily be said that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship has reached very strong grounds," he says. "Both sides respect each other's views and priorities and understand that their objectives and aspirations are common."

Mr. Hawatmeh, who opposes the Arab-Israeli peace talks under their present conditions "which do not favour the Palestinians," is nonetheless appreciative of Jordan's approach to the process.

"Jordan has taken an honourable position, leaving it up to the Palestinians to decide for themselves what they want," he points out.

Mr. Hawatmeh, born in the East Bank town of Salt, also notes that the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, has repeatedly reaffirmed its decision that, "in view of the historic relations between the peoples of the two banks of the river, there will be confederal relations between them after the basic conflict with Israel has been resolved."

According to Mr. Hawatmeh, Jordan's pointed abstention from applying pressure on the Palestinians to return to the ninth round of bilateral talks and indications that the Kingdom would not have gone on its own to the negotiating table without the Palestinians are the best evidence of the Kingdom's hands-off policy vis-a-vis Palestinian decision-making.

The argument of some Jordanians that the Kingdom would be better off without partnership with the Palestinians is belied by the fact that the Palestinian cause figures high in the publicly acknowledged priorities of every Jordanian political party formed since September last year.

"It clearly signifies the awareness of Jordanian politicians that they would be outcasts in mainstream political life if they do not take into consideration the Palestinian component of Jordan," notes Dr. Radwan Abdullah, head of the political science department of Jordan University.

"It is not humanly possible to extricate the links between the two peoples," he says. "Both sides have to take into consideration the overall nature of their links before moving in any direction."

Taber Al Masri, a Palestinian-born member of Parliament and former prime minister, believes that Jordanians and Palestinians have reached "a solid level of cooperation and coordination" capable of interacting with the requirements of "the changes in the world around us."

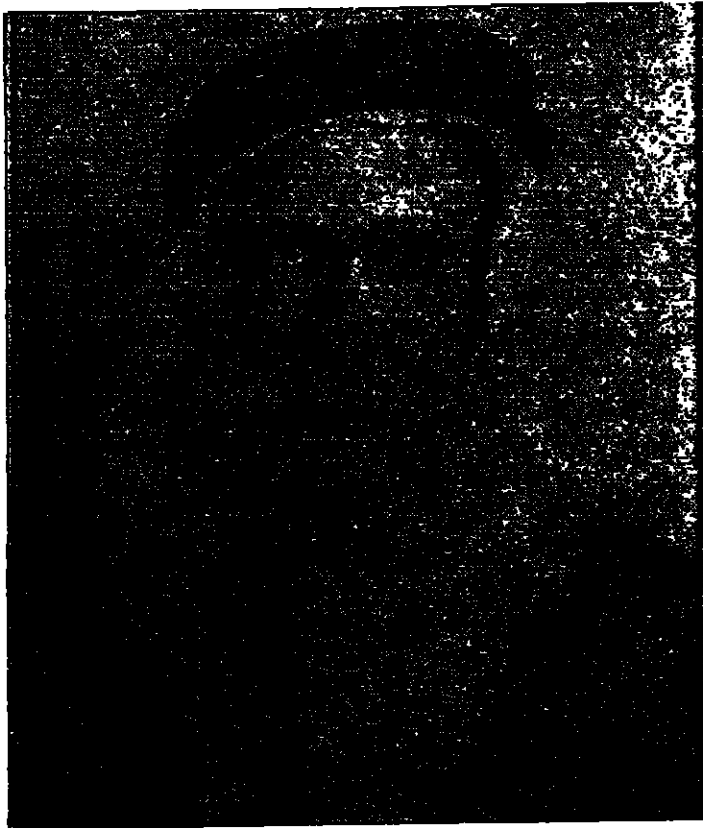
While Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank and its democratisation process were also two major events in the shaping of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, "common needs and objectives" also played a key role in shifting the relationship to better grounds based on clearer understanding of each other, Mr. Masri observes.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

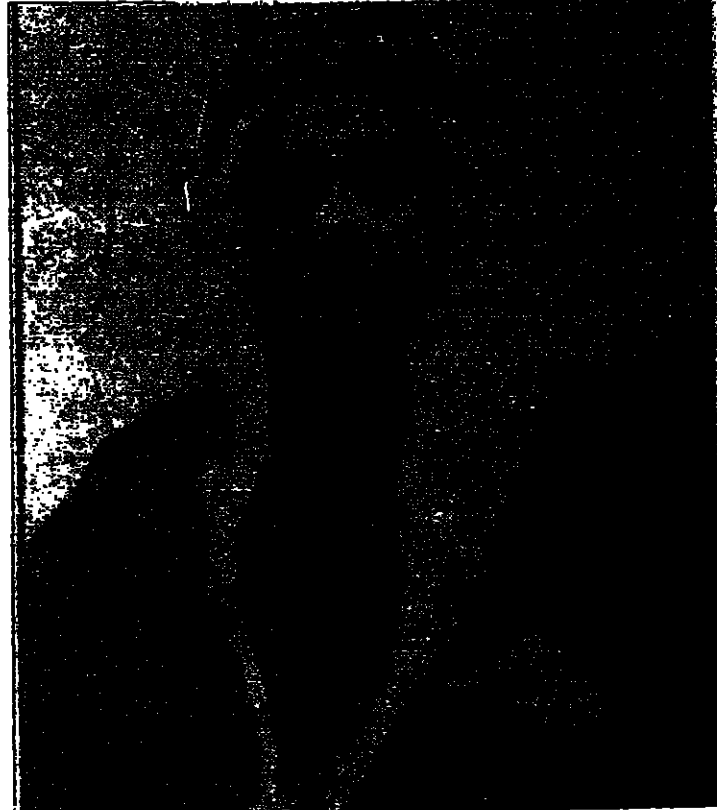
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King Hussein at Sandhurst



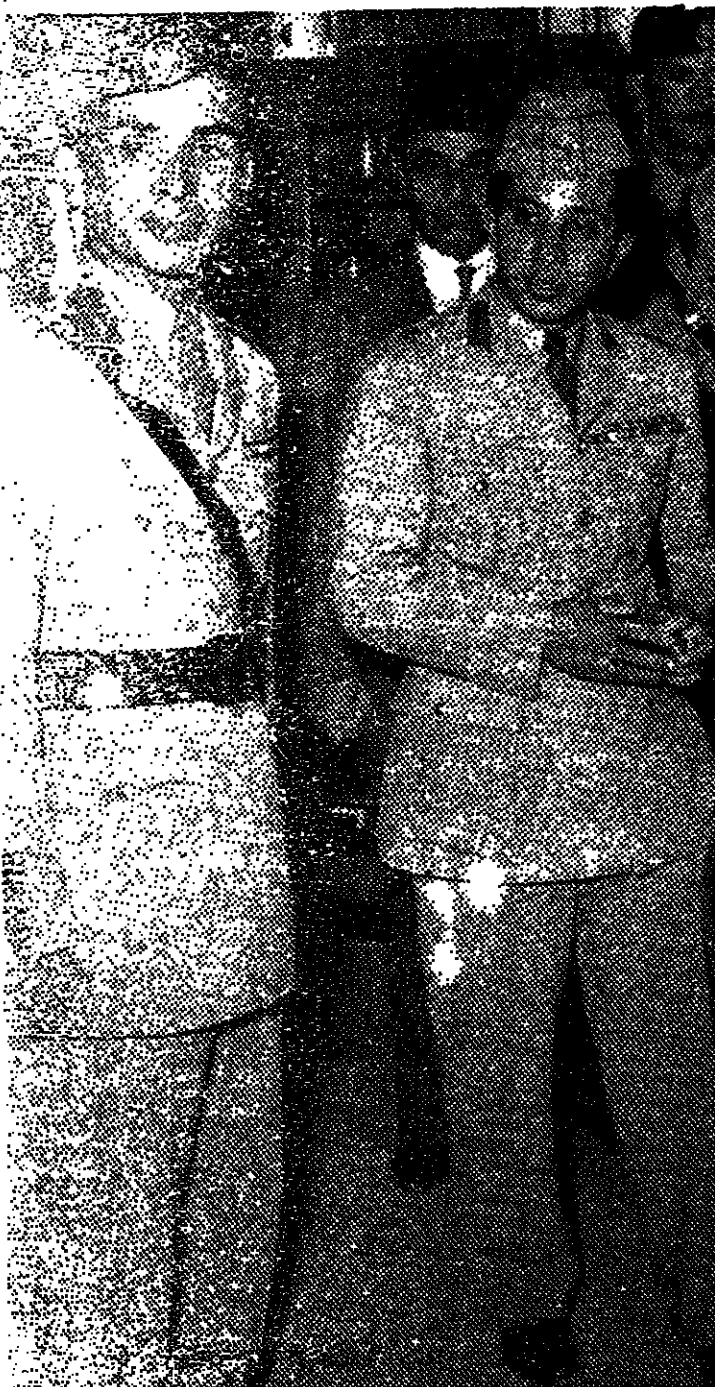
Sharif Hussein Ben Ali (1853-1931)



King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein (1882-1951)



at Harrow College



King Hussein and the late King Faisal of Iraq visit the Jordan Cement Factories Company in August 1953



King Talal Ben Abdullah (1909-1972)



King Hussein Ben Talal



King Hussein

The scion of Bani Hashem

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

TODAY MARKS a milestone in the history of Jordan as the date commemorates the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers.

Born in Amman in 1935, Emir Hussein was brought up under the care of the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, the King's grandfather and founder of the Kingdom, and his parents, the late King Talal and Queen Zein the Queen Mother.

The eldest of three brothers and a sister, King Hussein acquired elementary and basic education in Jordan before moving to Alexandria, Egypt, and later to Harrow School and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst — England.

Prince Hussein succeeded his father, who abdicated the throne due to ill health, on August 11, 1952. But since he was only 17, he could not assume his powers until he became 18 in the following year.

The King is a scion of the most honoured family in both the Arab and Muslim worlds.

He is the 40th descendant of the Prophet Mohammad, who brought to the world the message of Islam more than 14 centuries ago.

The Hashemites acquired their family title from Hashem, the great grandfather of the Prophet. The family belongs to the line of sharifs, who lived in Hejaz, homeland to the two holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

Over the centuries, the families of the Ashraf successively held

the reins of the rule in Hejaz where they established supremacy in the region during the first half of the 19th century.

Sharif Hussein, the great grandfather of King Hussein, was a man of independent views and with a strong character. As a result of his disapproval of the way in which the people of Hejaz were ruled and treated under the Ottoman Empire, Sharif Hussein had to spend 16 years in exile along with his family and four sons, Ali, Abdullah, Faisal and Zaid.

In 1908, Sharif Hussein was able to establish himself in a position of leadership. He curbed the authority of the Ottomans, with the help of his sons who participated in military expeditions and administering territories under their control.

In 1916, Sharif Hussein led the

Arabs in battle to attain independence from the Ottoman Empire to achieve unity and freedom for the Arab peoples in what became known as the Great Arab Revolt.

Sharif Hussein was proclaimed King of the Arabs. But at the end of World War I, Britain and France divided the Arab World among themselves. As a compromise deal, however, an Arab state was established in Iraq under Emir Faisal, and one in Transjordan under Emir Abdullah.

When Emir Hussein Ibn Talal was proclaimed King of Jordan in August of 1952, he was only 17 and receiving training at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. On May 2, 1953, however, he assumed his constitutional powers whose anniversary Jordan celebrates today.





Holding Her Royal Highness Princess Haya



The late King Talal holding the young Prince Hussein



King Hussein (right) with the late King Faisal of Iraq



With parents the late King Talal and Her Majesty Queen Zein, the Queen Mother



During a visit to the Armed Forces

Fostering a civic society

By Jennifer Hamarneh

INTELLECTUALS ARE looking towards and analysing the last 40 years of Jordan's development. While many acknowledge the tremendous achievements in those four decades, they agree that more needs to be done, and efforts in particular fields should be reexamined and redirected.

Self-criticism is healthy, they concede, particularly when used as a search for a better way of improving the country.

During 1977, just past the half-century mark of the 40 years of assuming his constitutional powers, His Majesty King Hussein asked of the civic duty of Jordan's citizens. He said:

"Nations do not grow and develop by constructing buildings, importing equipment, or increasing the number of graduates. They can only develop when they bring up responsible citizens who are always ready to serve out of conviction from within. Society progresses only if it creates citizens who believe in their duty and are ready for public service, aware of their responsibilities, disciplined and productive. Jordan requires the spirit of work, sacrifice, solidarity and the readiness to take and carry out responsibility."

Looking back over the last 40 years and arriving at 1993, can it be said that the Jordanian society has followed the natural course of social change that corresponds to technological, political and economic changes? Has the King's growth borne out the civility citizen that is desired?

"We have failed to make the individual citizen aware of his duty as part of a whole — the individual who was socially interested as part of a family which is part of a society," claims Ali Ishtaiwi, author, specialist and consultant on neurology and psychiatry at Jordan University Hospital.

That individual, instead of embracing the stance is materialistic, with no thought of civic responsibility," he said. Dr. Kamal maintains that "this is the product of the introduction of the element of materialism into the minds, feelings and ways of living people."

Raising the issue of materialism further, Qublan Al Majali, professor of sociology at Mutah University, asserts that, with respect to the "material culture" has developed in Jordan, "our society has done very well." He explains that change in material status is a much easier transition than change in social culture. "Society failed in social culture because of 'traditions, religious, thoughts, and habits,'" Dr. Majali maintains.

Many sociologists concur that in Jordan, there is an obvious lag between economic and technological changes and social change, and that more education, advanced technology, and improved economic standards have not brought people into more modernised social ways of life or thinking.

The swiftness with which these changes came about are partly to blame, says Musa Ishtaiwi, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Jordan. He explains that the Jordanian society moved from a tribal, primarily agrarian society, up to the mid-century, to "forced industrial society without an industrial revolution."

Four decades ago

Four decades ago, Jordan was a "consuming, non-productive country," says Dr. Kamal. "Jordan had an almost non-existent infrastructure in all the fields necessary to make up a viable country."

In the summer of 1952, Dr. Kamal was en route to the West Bank from Baghdad, where he

had taken up residence after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. He describes his transit to the Jordan Times as if it were yesterday:

"My first impression of that first visit to Jordan was passing through Zarka, (then) a town of scattered houses, with no sense of order or beauty on either side of a narrow road leading to Amman."

"I settled in Amman for a few hours. If I can describe my recollection of the town at the time, I would say that it had one street running through downtown, which extended from the old Hijaz railway station to the Second Circle. It was summer, and there was nothing to entice you to stay longer in Amman beyond filling an empty stomach."

Although Dr. Kamal admits that he cannot say much about the social life during that time, he says it was not particularly different from the social life of a traditional community, that is, "a mixture of a tribal, agricultural community, sprinkled with a trading or merchant community, made up of immigrants mainly from Syria and to a lesser extent from the West Bank."

"If one has to sum up the difference between Jordan 40 years ago and Jordan now, one finds it difficult to detect a similarity between both eras and one can safely say, without exaggeration, that the development of Jordan stands in the forefront of developing countries in the world."

Today

Still, although people have improved their standard of living, they have "culturally stagnated," contends Dr. Ishtaiwi.

According to Dr. Kamal, Jordanians have been the victims of changes in material circumstances which has made them the "ardent, obedient servants of matter for its own sake or rather materialism for 'my' own sake, leaving a vacuum of the higher moral or higher being values that are necessary to build up a system of culture with distinctive characteristics that would give identity and meaning to society and the country as a whole."

But in looking at the institutions established to cater to the needs of the people, it is generally agreed that, in all fields, the country has made considerable headway.

The number of students — male and female — to date has passed the one million mark, compared with a few thousand in the early 1950s, when schools were nearly non-existent with the exception of a few scattered primary schools and two or three secondary schools.

Today, the number of universities is 13, in addition to nearly 60 community and vocational training colleges. In the 1950s, Dr. Kamal recalls, this country had not one single college or university, and education of women was negligible.

Doctors have increased their numbers from what Dr. Kamal describes as a "handful" in government or private practice in early 1951 to more than 10,000 qualified physicians practising in Jordan, in addition to those Jordanians who are practising in neighbouring countries and abroad.

And government departments have enormously developed from "small isolated huts of administration to modern, comprehensive and sophisticated government departments."

But the qualitative aspect of these changes is what is being examined today. Here, focus invariably turned to the topic of education.

My first encounter with the King

By Ali Kamal

IT WAS about this time in 1953 when I first had the opportunity to meet the young King of Jordan, who was just enthroned in Amman and subsequently made the journey to Baghdad to congratulate his cousin, the late King Faisal-II on his enthronement as King of Iraq.

I was offered the opportunity of having a private audience with His Majesty and I happily took the offer.

My recollections of this encounter are still very vivid today as they were 40 years ago. I was facing a young monarch who displayed immense kindness and I quickly felt that I was meeting not a king but one of the people.

He was full of vigour and enthusiasm about the future of his country. He seemed to be completely free from any sense of vanity and aloofness. He expressed his continued readiness to receive suggestions and advice concerning the running of his young Kingdom.

Only a few months ago I had the second opportunity of meeting His Majesty and that was during one of the visits he made to my late brother, Mohammad Kamal, at King Hussein's Medical Centre.

I reminded His Majesty of the first encounter 40 years ago which he must have forgotten. I felt that he on both occasions, had the same nature and attributes.

There was no change in his essential characteristics of kindness and humility. He was both a King of the people and yet one of them at the level of everyone and this, I felt, is the characteristic that endeared him to all who met him from whatever age group, level of education or social standing.

In these attributes one finds the secret of His Majesty's immense popularity among his people, a popularity which is rarely equalled by any monarch or head of state in modern times. This fact is of concern to all the citizens of this country who have come to realise that their King is the prime mover of everything, the guarantor of their continued stability, security and prosperity and that 40 years of his reign is only a short period in the history of the country.

I am sure all his people wish him a long, healthy and tranquil life.

Educational system is the key

Higher education institutions were not sufficiently involved in people's lives, says sociologist Sabri Rubelhat, a specialist on crime and delinquency. They were too divorced from society, he says. As an example he cites the economic recession during 1988-1989.

"None of the economists at any of the universities came out to tell or explain to the people what was going on," Dr. Rubelhat claims that only two economists, Faded Al Fanek and Abdullah Malki, reacted to events during that period, noting that the two are not part of the university system.

Dr. Rubelhat points to his own profession saying that the involvement of sociologists in society never really touched upon social change issues in Jordan.

In a changing society such as Jordan's, the role of educational institutions is not to maintain the status quo but to develop individuals and empower them to adapt to the new changes.

Educational institutions, maintains Dr. Ishtaiwi, have an important role in educating people on democratic values. "We have been lacking political socialisation on what is happening in the country and we need a clear agenda for teaching people democratic values," he maintains.

The function of a school is to



Amman: Four decades of growth

provide students with a proper environment to foster their growth on the psychological, intellectual, physical, social and spiritual spheres, says Dr. Rubelhat. "But schools tended to concentrate on the intellectual aspects."

These are problems Jordanians are aware of and trying to tackle. Today there is more emphasis on quality in education. People are taking advantage of the democratic process. They are more open, vocal and attempting to become more involved and to involve others.

Social and developmental harmony

Jordan's struggle has been enormous over the last 40 years. With precious little natural resources, four major Arab-Israeli wars, several waves of mass migrations and erratic climatic conditions, King Hussein brought this nation to where it is today. And he brought democracy to the heart of the Middle East without an incident of violence.

But some critics argue that introducing swift change to a society can be detrimental to its welfare. Dr. Ishtaiwi maintains that change should be gradual and not forced, but adds that, without change, some basic life experiences are hindered.

If a female wants to attend university and pursue her education, he explains, she should have the freedom to do what she wants

and needs to do in pursuit of that goal. But many women in Jordan cannot play the full role of a student, which Dr. Ishtaiwi maintains, may include going to library or laboratory and staying late, working on weekends, and participating in extracurricular activities, because their families will not permit them.

"The student wants to get educated but cannot in the comprehensive manner that she should," he says.

Dr. Rubelhat believes that what is "really happening in the country is a situation where the harmony between man and his environment is missing."

It is perhaps here that civic society comes into play.

The Salt doctrine

Civic duty or responsibility is paramount to a viable and flourishing society. It is the force that supplements and enhances the work of governmental institutions in the fulfillment of their services to the public. And where these institutions may falter in that task, civic organisations can serve as the "reinforcements" that pick up the pieces, rearrange them and attempt to provide the comprehensive service that went lacking.

Civic society entails non-government controlled organisations and activities, as well as non-traditional, non-tribal and non-religious-based thinking in the application of its ideas. The root

of civic society implies citizen's participation and democracy. The goal of a civic organisation is to link society with the government.

Such civic activity was in fact started in Salt back in 1981, when a group of the city's "elite" — including the mayor, the governor, businessmen, lawyers, doctors, and tribal leaders — introduced new social concepts that would change many old ceremonial practices that they felt were outdated and constituted a social and economic burden on the community.

Namely, these community leaders wanted to encourage their fellow citizens to, inter alia, reduce costs of social occasions (such as marriage and funerals) which they felt had become extravagant. Incurring such costs had become an obligation and heavy burden, especially on the poor, which the Salt group viewed as not serving the better interests of the social structure of their community as a whole.

The result of the Salt doctrine, as it came to be known, was a collective edict that these costs "must be reduced to a minimum and any failure to do so would be considered an action against the welfare of the community."

All Jordanians were invited to follow this mandate, and government officials requested that citizens seriously consider the conference's outcome and attempt to comply with it. The King himself blessed the effort. In addition, the mass media

praised the conference's charter, saying that it was a healthy change and should be adopted.

The application of the agreement was, for a time, a success but two years into its implementation the community began to resort to the old traditions of spending exorbitantly on marriages and other social occasions.

The reason for the reversal was studied by Dr. Majali. In his doctorate dissertation entitled "Diffusion of an Innovation among Jordanian Cities Reduced Marriage Costs," Dr. Majali delved into a new area of what sociologists term "diffusion research."

The research attributed the regression to the lack of follow-up on the part of the mass media and other influential institutions in an attempt to reinforce, on a continual basis, the acceptance of such change.

"The experiment failed because the adoption of new social ideas is much more difficult than the adoption of material change," Dr. Majali maintains, explaining that social change touches the roots of society: its religious, cultural and tribal roots. "Many conditions must be set before social change can be accepted," he says, adding that a proper climate must exist in the community so that resistance is minimised.

Dr. Majali stresses four such conditions: 1) Changes should not threaten the value system of a

society; 2) They should not threaten the power system within the community; 3) The support of the community leaders is important since they can control and influence community; and 4) The support of the government for these new ideas is paramount.

The most important catalysts for social change are the mass media and the educational system, Dr. Majali insists. "So there must be follow up, reinforcement and encouragement by the media and the initiators of the idea, otherwise a conservative society such as Jordan's will revert to its original traditions."

Like most developing societies in this age of Western domination or intervention, Jordan has had a cultural dichotomy within its society — one foot in modernity and one foot in tradition. Jordan's intellectuals are aware of this condition and are attempting, with the advent of democracy, 17 political parties, increased freedom of the press and all the available resources, to work towards a cooperative effort between government and citizens in order to strike a comprehensive balance between development and social change.

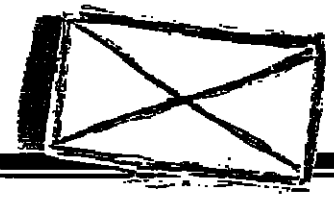
The last 40 years, says one observer, were "the period of sweat and toil in planting and cultivating the crop; now we are at harvest time. If we work swiftly and well together, it could be a great season."



University of Jordan: One of 13 higher education institutions serving an ever-growing student body



From a "handful" of doctors in 1952, Jordan now boasts more than 10,000 doctors working in the private and public sector, including the regionally acclaimed King Hussein Medical Centre (above)



King: Mideast peace talks last chance

Jordan hopes democratic experience will be an example for others.

The following is the full text of His Majesty King Hussein's interview with Reuters/Reuters Television on April 29, 1993.

QUESTION: On Sunday Jordan will celebrate your 40th ascension to the throne. You've seen a lot of milestones in that time but what would you say is your biggest achievement and your greatest regret?

ANSWER: My biggest achievement has been to give the people of Jordan regardless of their origins what they have enjoyed in the recent times and I hope they will enjoy all the years to come in terms of what is their right on sharing and shaping their future and democracy and growing and greater respect for human rights and, I hope, pluralism as it evolves in the years to come. A feeling of pride despite difficulties and challenges. What they are, what they represent, and, I hope, that they will be able to... themselves (provide) the kind of example that hopefully others will look at in the entire region to ensure its stability in the times to come and to ensure that the future is the bright one that we seek.

We are obviously involved now in the peace process. It has never appeared to be a very easy process but one hopes that the possibility will be there to finally address the root cause of instability in this entire region and to give all its people a chance to move away from (violence). So many years have passed, including the past 40 years; as far as I was concerned (I want) the kind of peace that future generations can keep, protect and preserve.

Q: And your biggest regret looking back?

A: Regret? I honestly can't pinpoint any situation where given the circumstances I had to deal with I could have done anything differently. But no decision was ever taken hurriedly or without consideration. Every decision came as a result of a lot of thought and soul-searching. However, the transition was made into the kind of life that I hope will be... the promise of Jordan for the region where people share in making decisions.

Q: You've said that before you took the throne you hated the thought of becoming king and wanted to have a normal life. Has the job grown on you in this past 40 years?

A: I don't know that it can ever grow on one but I've felt throughout these past years like an ordinary person who has been trying his best with a large family and within the context of this family to achieve our hopes and aspirations or at least move ahead during this lifespan which has extended so far to achieve some of our foundations, the foundations for a better future.

Q: Jordan has made perhaps the most progress in peace talks

with Israel. Apart from a final settlement which you have said would need an overall solution to the Middle East problem do you think Jordan and Israel will reach a final agreement this year?

A: I honestly don't know and I know that the obstacles are great but when we decided to go to the Madrid conference and by extension everything else that's happened since that was a decision that was taken consciously by all of us after a meeting here where we studied all our options and it was a national decision.

I think there is a growing feeling on both sides of the divide that this is our chance and we must take it to remove the root cause of instability in this entire region once and for all... so many who have not always necessarily been interested in the betterment of people and conditions in this region...

There is a realisation that time is short and there may not be another chance. There wouldn't be another chance in fact. So one hopes that we will find a solution that gives the Palestinians... and all participants and all involved parties the kind of future that will give them hope and limitless opportunities.

Q: How significant is the Israeli move to allow back Palestinian exiles?

A: I suppose it is a good beginning to say the least. But I can't add any more to that. Palestinians have suffered so much over so many years and they have so many rights that I hope will be recognised.

Q: Are you more encouraged by the more active role that Washington is taking in the talks?

A: I am encouraged and hopefully convinced that Washington is determined to do all it can with new spirit and new determination to help all concerned move towards the kind of solution that generations after can live with and can accept and protect.

I don't know what "full partner" means but we have seen encouraging signs so far.

Q: If we could turn to Iraq. Many people still see it as a potentially destabilising factor in this region. What role do you see for Iraq and for (President) Saddam Hussein?

A: I have always tried to move away from personalising the issues but on the other hand Iraq is important as far as I am concerned. If you ask what I wish for Iraq I wish for it to remain together. Its integrity is important but beyond that I wish for it national reconciliation, real movement towards democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights and hopefully an end to this nightmare of suffering of the Iraqi people themselves where it can



"As a Muslim, I feel urged to do whatever I can to correct misconceptions of what Islam is in regard to its image..."

regain its important (role) in the region.

Q: You'll apparently be seeing President Clinton next month. Will you raise this issue with him? Will you ask him to lift sanctions on Iraq?

A: I look forward to my first meeting with the president when he is ready to receive me. I have a visit to the United States in a month's time or just over that for my regular six-month checkup. I look forward to meeting him very much and I hope it gives us an opportunity to get to know each other and I will certainly do everything I can to give him a clear and honest picture of the region that he deserves in this position of enormous responsibility that the United States has.

Q: Do you think there is a growing feeling among Arab leaders and among the West that Saddam Hussein is someone that they can live with?

A: Once again I care and care very deeply for the people of Iraq and I have made it abundantly clear myself time and again that if I ever were an obstacle to Jordan and its progress I wouldn't think twice about it. The people of Jordan would be more important. I can't say that this approach to life is shared by many in this region but I think that what is important as far as Iraq (is concerned) is the Iraqi people.

Q: I'm sure you're tired of this question but you've mentioned on occasions you've felt the desire to hand over responsibility to

someone else. Is that still a possibility?

A: The duties I have are such to prepare the ground for a more stable progressive Jordan in the future and to make whatever decisions I deem right at that time and see how it goes.

Q: Do you feel democracy now is at the stage it should be at in Jordan?

A: Yes I feel it is despite enormous difficulties, suspicions, hostility by some in the region to the very concept. But it has to happen, it is going to happen everywhere sooner or later.

The clock cannot be turned nor can we have a situation where people are denied their basic rights and, thank God, here in

Jordan these rights were given because we believed in them and recognised them as such and I would hope certainly that our other brethren in the Arab World can look at this example as a serious and worldly one to look at in terms of shaping the future.

Q: There seem to be people in Jordan who fear democracy, who worry that the Jordan they know will become fundamentally different. Is democracy irreversible now?

A: I believe it is irreversible and obviously there is a danger that democracy will be threatened by democracy but I don't think this will happen here and my efforts will go towards sharing with Jordanians what I believe is the experience that

we've been through in the times ahead to see what went right and where we went wrong if we did and to really stress on the individual on the voter in the times ahead for these elections... the responsibility he has towards himself, towards his country and beyond that to the region itself.

Q: Do you ever worry about the enormous outpouring of affection that Jordanians have for you. (The fact that) you go beyond being just their leader?

A: To tell you the truth I never thought of it in these terms. I always thought of it... I prayed for a time long (that) after I'm gone when people would say he was a good fellow and he did his best and hopefully judge me well. But I have been blessed in my life to be surrounded by such warmth and affection that no matter what I do for whatever remains of life or several lifetimes would not be enough to express my feelings to my people of pride in belonging to them and of love.

Q: What has happened to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Why has reconciliation not happened?

A: It hasn't happened (not) due to any lack of attempt by us to reestablish relations on the basis of mutual respect and trust and confidence.

Anyway as far as Kuwait I'm not even going to comment about that. As far as Saudi Arabia is concerned I still hope that there will come a time that if there are any shadows of doubt regarding the sincerity and sense of responsibility that (in the) course we took in trying to avert a disaster in this region and reverse an unfortunate happening peacefully that there was any other motive. There wasn't, except for the interests of the area and its people. I hope that this will be realised sooner or later and then I'm sure that things will go back to what they should be.

Q: Are there still efforts going on?

A: We've made it very clear that we will take two steps to meet anyone who takes a step towards us but we are not going to do anything beyond that.

Q: Do you still expect to hold elections in November?

A: Hopefully around November, yes.

Q: Will it be "one man, one vote"?

A: This is still under consideration. Whether a change to the election law... whatever will enable Jordan to move further.

Q: What do you see as the future of the monarchy in Jordan and in this region?

A: As far as I'm concerned I belong with pride to the house of Hashem and I've always felt that my duty in life has been to ensure that I've been above differences. I've considered myself a unifying

factor for my country and beyond. I did everything I could for others because already in life one had been honoured to receive a position far more important than any material or physical one in terms of allocation in government or even as head of a state so there was nothing to search for beyond that except to do one's best and live honestly with oneself and to serve people to the best of one's abilities and maybe if there is a need this will continue to be the case as far as this family is concerned.

But the main thrust is to try to build with Jordanians and regardless of their origins this country to be a beacon in this area to be a source of hope for others.

Q: Many people here think that Islam is under threat in this region. What do you see as the future of Islam and what brand of Islam do you think will be around in the next five/ten years?

A: I get extremely irritated when people try to portray Islam the way it sometimes is seen as a result of the acts of ignorance or extremism that is very alien to what Islam truly is. As a Muslim I feel urged to do whatever I can to correct misconceptions of what Islam is in regard to its image and the world as a whole. I think as far as Jordan is concerned it will continue to operate to be an example outside to how we live here in this country together, members of one family, regardless of our religious beliefs. And I hope that Islam will illuminate itself and the rest of the world in time when it is truly seen for what it really is — one of the most productive, dynamic, forward-reaching religions... and remove any of the misconceptions that may be the heritage of the past or the work of the present in terms of reactions to actions or whatever be the reason.

Q: Do you think the misconceptions that existed about Jordan have been removed in the West?

A: I think yes; we have gone a long way and I think that in time this will happen inevitably the other way.

Q: How would you describe your relations with the United States now? Are they completely back to normal?

A: I believe they are very strong and very very promising and in any event if they have suffered I have every hope that they will resume their warmth and their strength based on again mutual respect and respect of principles and ideas... in common.

Q: You've just come back from London recently. Have the wounds of the Gulf war in terms of Jordan's relations with Europe been smoothed over?

A: I believe they have yes.

A king in service of his people

By Waleed Sadi

FOR His Majesty King Hussein the 40th anniversary of his assumption of constitutional powers may indeed mark a long journey, punctuated by countless bitter-sweet milestones. This much the King has expressed on several occasions and his words and outlook bear witness to this mixed sentiment. For his people, however, the Monarch's four-decade-long reign may mean something else. The pains of these years are often forgotten or glossed over and most of what is remembered is how we benefited from King Hussein's accession to the helm so many years ago and how we continue to enjoy stability and progress under his rule.

It does not take much effort to find out what pained King Hussein and what gave him happiness, satisfaction and pride. The list is indeed long, figuratively speaking much longer than the forty years during which he sat on the throne. Completing the process of independence by Arabising the Jordanian Armed Forces may be the earliest occasion for the Monarch to take pride in. That dramatic and remarkable leap was indeed fraught with danger and could have upset the King's continued rule had it failed. It succeeded for a variety of reasons on top of which was the courage of the King and his deep conviction in his national and historic mission as a young Hashemite Monarch who came to power in time to finish what his grandfather, the late King Abdullah, had started decades before him.

Arab army attempted to stage two successive coups against the dynasty. The wounds to the King must have been deep and permanent. Most of all, King Hussein must have felt betrayed by the very armed forces that he had just liberated at a price that could have cost him his throne.

The Arabisation and liberation of the Jordanian Armed Forces and the failed attempted coups came after the union between the East and West Banks, which was a major national feat not only in terms of forging the first serious effort for a more comprehensive Arab unity but also in highlighting the continuous proposition that the two banks were, for all intents and purposes, political twins never again to be separated. It happened, though, in 1967. The Arab-Israeli war of that year may still be the most painful experience that King Hussein suffered during his long reign. The cost of that war was formidable and catastrophic.

Deep in his heart, King Hussein still feels that the loss of Jerusalem and the West Bank could have been somehow averted, and that history may not be too understanding of the reasons and factors that pushed Jordan into disaster. But by yielding to Arab pressure, both external and domestic, it was inevitable for Jordan to find itself railroaded into a suicidal war from which it could not possibly have emerged unscathed. In a matter of three short days, King Hussein saw his dream of Arab unity, as championed and preached by the Great Arab Revolt, disfigured and reversed. What exacerbated the sorrows and disappointments of the King was the fact that the unity be-

tween the two banks was no ordinary Arab unification but one that was borne out by long history, neighbourliness and shared roots. Ever since the two sides of the Kingdom became divided, a string of factors and events continued to take their heavy toll on what was left of the early achievements of the Monarch.

After a series of fruitless efforts to strike an honourable deal with Israel on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, King Hussein literally gave up trying again and again after he became convinced that successive Israeli governments had no real intention to withdraw completely from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. And when the Arab World forced the decision to yield to the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and the potential government for the lost West Bank and Gaza Strip, he consented to this Arab and Palestinian will and offered to help make the Palestinian dream come true.

Still, it would be naive to presume that King Hussein was only too glad to break all legal and administrative links between the two banks, in 1988. The continuous yearning for a confederation or a federation between Jordan and Palestine is still on the minds of many seasoned and sober Palestinians and Jordanians. The unfinished business facing King Hussein may very well be this dimension of a renewed Jordan-Palestinian association. King Hussein may continue to feel restless till the Jordanian-Palestinian equation and the whole question of Arab unity is settled on the basis of the message of the Great Arab Revolt.

His Majesty King Hussein will for all times feel vindicated by history that his single-handed reintroduction of a pluralistic democracy is one of the key contemporary milestones of his rule. Most of all, democracy in the Arab World may indeed be the formula to correct national errors and put Arab unification again on track. The primary beneficiary of democracy and human rights in the area could very well end up to be the reunification of the two political twins of the Jordan River. There will come a time when the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples will determine, by democratic means, the future of their historic and national relations. The Hashemite family would serve this association in the future as it has done in the past.

The sorrows that were generated by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait also still haunt King Hussein and no amount of successes on any other Arab front can be expected to heal the wounds of that conflict unless and until certain Arab states stop insisting on misunderstanding or misinterpreting the principled position of the Monarch on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti situation, past and present. There is no worse feeling than being willfully and arbitrarily misunderstood, and the King must be experiencing that kind of feeling even at this late hour.

Palestinians say talks made progress

(Continued from page 1)

predict the prospect of agreement with Israel this year.

"I honestly do not know. I know that the obstacles are great..." he said when asked whether Jordan could conclude a treaty with Israel by the end of the year.

The King has said he would not sign a final deal without a solution to the Palestinian problem. "I think there is a growing feeling on both sides... that time is short and there may not be another chance," the King said of the peace talks.

Palestinians had to be forced by U.S. and Arab pressure to resume the talks Tuesday after a four-month crisis caused by Israel expelling 415 Palestinians it accused of supporting violent Islamic groups.

Israel promised confidence-building measures, such as the return to the 30 long-term expellees, and the United States added assurances that there would be new ideas on the table about self-rule in the occupied territories.

"I am not saying that we are there yet," Dr. Ashrawi said. "I am saying, finally the peace process is showing indications that it can move ahead, it can produce, it can be a vehicle for change."

"We still feel that from not just appearances but moves that this could be a qualitatively different phase," she added. "Some doors are being opened and we are doing our best to help and respond positively."

The first 15 expellees allowed home arrived in the West Bank Friday to a rapturous welcome.

The Palestinian negotiators hope that the return of well-known nationalists will revive some of the popularity they have lost in the occupied territories during long months in which the peace talks produced only frustration.

"The Palestinians are still celebrating the return to the 30 exiles," Dr. Ashrawi said. "It is a positive indication and it has contributed tremendously to changing the atmosphere."

She said the United States, the main sponsor of the peace process, would give Palestinian expellees their first briefing on settlements on Monday, when negotiations resume after a three-day weekend.

"We have always been complaining about lack of information, lack of information-sharing. Israel creates facts and we have no way of monitoring or finding out," Dr. Ashrawi said.

She declined to say whether the information the United States would provide would include data from intelligence satellites but commented: "I think the Americans have the most sophisticated monitoring system."

The most solid achievement of the first week of Israeli-Palestinian talks, according to both sides, was setting up three working groups to discuss the concept of self-rule, land and water, and conditions of life in the territories.

"Setting up these formal working groups is the signal of engagement," Dr. Ashrawi said.

"It is a question of attitude," she said. "I think finally the Israelis are taking the requirements of this track very seriously."

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Friday the United States will provide its views on settlement activity in the occupied territories to the Palestinian delegation.

"The Palestinians have asked to hear our views on settlement activity," he said, noting that "this is a discussion of an issue which affects their interest," but will not include discussion of "any joint action on the issue."

Asked to assess the Arab-Israeli talks, he noted that "we're pleased with the seriousness and the commitment to making tangible progress that all the parties have demonstrated" so far.

"Clearly there's much more work to be done. No one believes it will be easy," Mr. Boucher said. "The United States remains active, behind-the-scenes, fulfilling our role as full partner," the spokesman told reporters.

"By the way, I think I'll leave it to the parties to comment on their negotiations."

Israeli negotiator Eliakim Rubinstein said Saturday Israel has accepted the presence of two Palestinians from outside the occupied territories at the peace talks but only as members of working groups.

But he told Israeli Radio the Palestinians were "not members of the Palestinian delegation and are not taking part in plenary meetings" involving Israeli negotiators.

Israel had refused to negotiate with Palestinians from the diaspora as well as residents from East Jerusalem.

However, Israel allowed Faisal Hussein, the leading Palestinian in the occupied territories and a resident of East Jerusalem, to join the delegation as one of the concessions which helped restart the peace talks Tuesday.

Mr. Rubinstein, who heads the Israeli negotiating team in talks with the Palestinians and the Jordanians, said the Palestinians from the diaspora had been allowed to go to Washington as "advisors."

On Friday, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said the two Palestinians were "taking part in two commissions on autonomy, and land and water rights."

Yemeni polls

(Continued from page 1)

past week, especially between the socialists and Islam supporters.

On Friday, a socialist representative, Jarallah Omar, that armed members of A's stormed a polling centre in northwest Yemen and killed one of his fellow party members.

The socialists claim attackers seized ballot boxes and forged them at will.

Hamad Hashem Al Dhab, an Islam member on the electoral committee who appeared at a news conference with Mr. A. Ras, said the allegations were "exaggerated." But he did not say how many people died in the Hejja incident.

He said the clash was "not for political reasons but because of tribal sensitivities."

Clashes that may have occurred in recent days, said Mr. Abu Ras, were "incidental and have no connection to the elections but are due to family or tribal differences, or something of the sort."

Other than the Hejja incident, local residents in Sanaa reported Thursday that Sheikh Mohammad Ben Naji Al Shayeef, a prominent member of the General People's Congress, survived an assassination attempt.

Yugoslav

(Continued from page 1)

were among the first to arrive for what aides described as a final consultation before Mr. Clinton settled on a course of action.

"It's very important that anything we do be clearly defined in terms of its strategy," Mr. Clinton said Friday. "It is an interview with... pers. 'That is absolutely, undoubtedly.'"

Also among those summoned for the White House meeting was Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who was expected to travel to Western Europe and Russia to rally support for Mr. Clinton's plan.

Jordan celebrates 40 years of King's reign

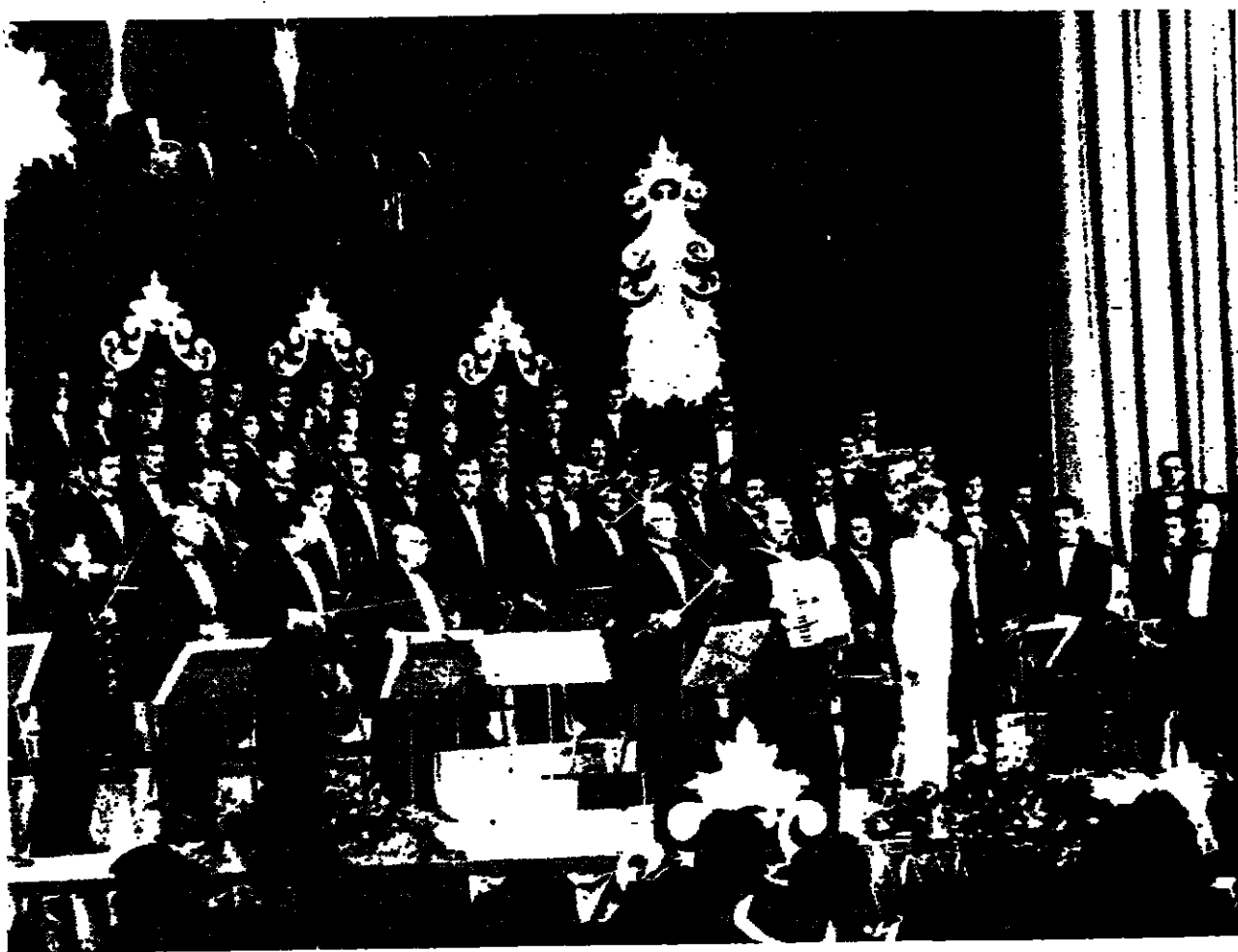
Festivities at Palace of Culture

THEIR MAJESTIES King Hussein and Queen Noor Saturday attended at the Palace of Culture a special ceremony organised by the higher committee for the Kingdom's celebrations of the 40th anniversary of King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers.

The ceremony included a poetry recital by Jordanian poet Suleiman Uweis and a song entitled "The King of the Most Prominent Status" by Tunisian singer Uthman Sadeq.

The lyric of the song was written by Iraqi poet Mohammed Mahdi Al Jawahri.

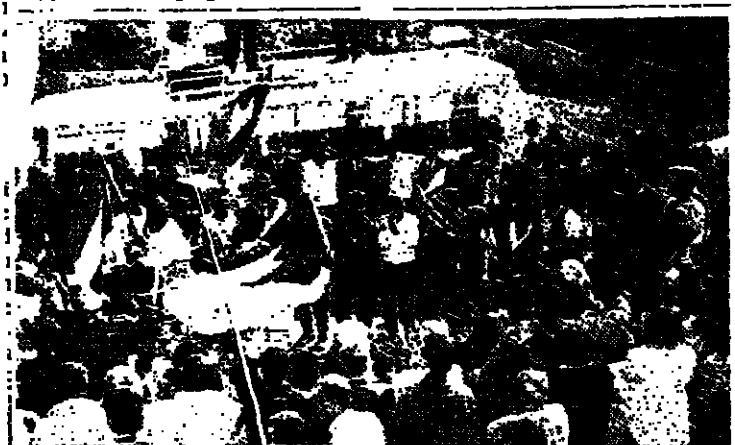
The ceremony was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, ministers, senior government and army officials and several members of the diplomatic corps in the Kingdom.



His Majesty King Hussein meets the 15 "returnees" before their departure for the occupied territories Thursday (Petra photo)



Group photograph of the "returnees" before crossing the bridge (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)



The "returnees" are given a ceremonious farewell at the Palestinian mission in Amman (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)



Khalil Al Sawahiri, holding a picture of slain Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir, is cheered at Jericho after crossing from the East Bank to return home after an exile of 23 years (AFP photo)

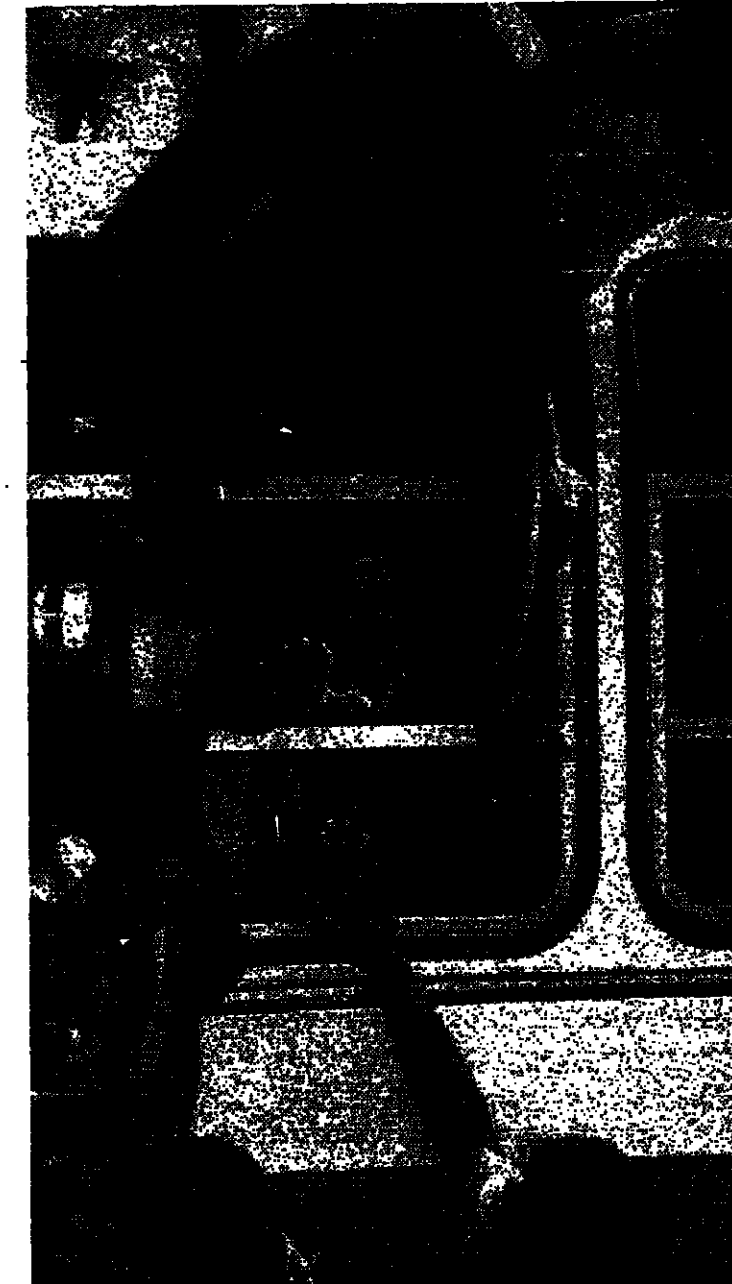
'Returnees' get a tumultuous welcome

A group of 15 Palestinians expelled by the Israeli occupation authorities since 1967 returned to their homes in the occupied territories Thursday after the Jewish state gave them clearance to return in line with an agreement linked to the resumption on April 27 of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The "returnees," who will be followed by another 15 Monday, were given a warm send-off from the East Bank and were greeted with a rapturous welcome by the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Here are some photos of their departure from Amman and the reception they received at home.



Palestinian youths swarm over the bus carrying the "returnees" at Jericho (AFP photo)



Faisal Kanan expelled in 1969, waves to cheering supporters as he returns home (AFP photo)



Abdul Jawad Saleh, former mayor of Al Bireh who was expelled in 1973, reunited with his mother (AFP photo)



Abdul Sawahiri, a dentist who was expelled in 1966, is greeted by his supporters (AFP photo)

Queen Alia fund project offers a ray of hope to business — oriented women

By Cosima Hadidi
Special to the Jordan Times

Hania has graduated with a business degree from a local community college and would now like to start a small business enterprise for herself. Sumaya is the wife of a farmer who would like to start a project to improve her family's income. But they have a major problem: They live in a village in which no one can advise them on what, how and where to start a successful venture in which they can fully use their skills.

To help women such as Hania and Sumaya, the Queen Alia

Jordan Social Welfare Fund has launched a new pilot project to set up Women's Enterprise Development Units at its social development centres in Irbid, Mafraq and the Hashemi area of Amman.

The units will offer local women expert advice and training to establish new businesses according to their abilities and the needs of their communities. The Amman Federation of Chambers of Commerce will cooperate with the Queen Alia fund in this project by offering information which will help women's business succeed.

The Amman Chamber of Com-

merce also cooperated with the fund by accommodating the initial training aimed at professionals who will be supporting local women in setting up their own businesses. Sponsored by British government, the training is conducted by two experts from Britain: Chris Jones, who represents the British Community Education Development Centre and Sue Blizard.

The training involves new techniques that will be applied by the participants in working with local women and helping them generate ideas for feasible income-generating projects. "Most rural women, when asked what kind of

project they would like to start, ask for the traditional sewing and knit. That is because they are not trained to think of other ideas," said Ms. Jones.

"We are delighted by the enthusiasm for this project. We have also been able to involve volunteers from local women's committees and a representative from Yarmouk University is working alongside Queen Alia fund staff. This gives a wide base of commitment for success," added Ms. Jones.

As a result of this project, the Queen Alia fund will help more women to become self-employed and family incomes will be increased.

Welfare programme boosted by free market principles

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — In applying the benefits of entrepreneurship and free market economy to one of its best known welfare programmes, Egypt has pioneered a positive type of government intervention. The project has helped many families to significantly increase their income-generating potential and thereby improve their life, without draining scarce resources.

One such case in point is that of Hania Hassanein, 35. A rural resident, she is earning three times the salary of her husband by doing embroidery at home. She receives from the government the skills and patterns for her work and she has become so skilled that she says she could do any piece with her eyes closed. As a result of this supplementary income, the family home is adequately provided for and, most importantly, her four sons will have access to higher education.

Likewise, Mohammad Al Siwi, 78, is now able to run a workshop in silk-carpet weaving in the back streets of Cairo; his young apprentices come after school to learn the skill of weaving. Under the project, the finished products — magnificent carpets — will be guaranteed a fair price.

The project originated in the early 1960s and was known as the "Association for the Productive Family." It was designed to increase the productivity of each family member, including housewives who could do knitting or cooking, or children who could weave baskets. Despite being one of the most important projects operating under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs, it meandered along until a radical transformation was effected starting in 1991. Now the project is about to become self-sufficient, generating enough income to cover costs.

The programme banks on one significant aspect of the Egyptian economy, namely that the country is very rich in human resources. It also underscores the important place of handicrafts and light industry in Egypt's economic future. The project's funding comes from the Social Fund for Development, reorganised to be in line with the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund.



Capitalising on the traditional skills of rural Egyptians, the Organisation for Family and Social Development lets them help themselves while producing many high-quality items.

Mourad Kamel Youssef, project director for the Giza region near Cairo, explained that funding is given out in installments and is made available to all applicants satisfying certain conditions. Priority is given to university and technical school graduates and those compelled to return from the Gulf, Iraq or Kuwait, having lost everything as a result of the recent crisis. There are waiting lists but, according to Mr. Youssef, all requests are answered within two months.

The applicants have to submit a feasibility study with their project proposal which should be relevant to the needs of the region in which the project is to be implemented, said Mr. Youssef. "We accept any project which results in a finished product; but we do not deal with intermediary activities such as soldering workshops or any kind of repairs which are dependent on the existence of another party. We give priority to small-scale projects which use the local raw materials — for example, candied dates in palm-growing regions. Encouragement is given to developing existing handicraft skills such as carpet-making, wood or metal work within a strictly traditional

framework." At the moment the introduction of innovative projects is seen as a threat to the marketing of traditional products which are successful internationally, so Mr. Youssef and his colleagues are not ready to venture into the unknown.

Using two approaches, the association shoulders the marketing responsibilities for the products generated by the programme. There are products which can be sold without intermediary costs of publicity or transport and others which require a certain economic strategy for identifying advantageous outlets. In the latter case, the association intervenes and becomes the buyer under the title "Social Organisation for Family and Social Development." This body has helped transform the project into a productive one.

In Cairo's residential area of Dokki a new building houses a permanent exhibition of the association's products which are available for export. All are fine examples of Egypt's luxury handicrafts and include chiselled silver trays, furniture inlaid with mother-of-pearl, ivory or ebony, lace clothing and silk or wool car-

pets in subtle colours. The success of Mr. Youssef and his team in the Giza region has been proven during international exhibits in Paris, London and recently in Saudi Arabia. Sales reached a record figure of 1.64 million Egyptian pounds (\$506,000) and more shows are scheduled for Rome, Libya and Morocco.

One drawback is that only residents of a few regions benefit from the programme. In many parts of rural Egypt no infrastructure are in place to make it efficient, and people are not aware of the opportunities they are missing. Also, there have been complaints from applicants who say that they have received no answer from the administrators, or that funding has been held up.

"The ministry has set up a special office to deal with complaints relating to the project. In each governorate, people should contact the appropriate under-secretary of state and, as a last resort, the minister in Cairo direct," explained Mr. Youssef.

Unfortunately, those who could benefit from the scheme are ill-equipped to make successful applications and end up entangled in the web of bureaucracy. According to Mr. Youssef, however, the example of the returnee from Iraq who submitted a project for rearing calves in March 1991 and who never received a reply, is an exceptional case. In each community, he explained, social workers are supposed to be in place actively informing villagers and directing them to the social affairs offices for the project.

In the villages where the project is well implemented, training courses have been set up for young women with various sewing and cooking skills. Family planning has been integrated into the classes and incentives are provided; for example, each woman farmer is given a cow buffalo for practicing birth spacing.

According to Mr. Youssef, every village could be transformed by reaching out to women. "Contrary to popular opinion, it is women who weigh up the pros and cons and take steps to bring about important social change," he said — World News Link.

Labour report reveals truth about working life in 1993

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), surveying the 1993 labour scene, issued the world labour report that underlines negative global traits like persistently high unemployment, the grim reality of modern-day slavery, trade unions under pressure, the struggle for social protection in developing countries and a worldwide epidemic of stress.

Following is a summary of the report, which offers a vivid and often disturbing review of working life in 1993. This year's report finds the overall employment picture still depressed. The industrial market economies are slow to emerge from recession, and unemployment averages around 8 per cent — 33 million people in total. Most of the job losses continue to be in construction as well as manufacturing where employment in 1991 fell on average by 1.5 per cent. But recently there has been a much greater shakeout of jobs across a wide range of services and white-collar occupations.

Eastern European countries have seen unemployment rise steeply as they move to market economies. Most of the unemployment — around 80 per cent — has come from the shrinking of state enterprises, and here, too, the majority of the job losses occurred in industry, though

there were also substantial declines in agriculture and services. Latin America, says the report, has made significant economic progress since the mid-1980s. But in 1990, 46 per cent — or 192 million people — lived under the poverty line, 5 per cent higher than at the beginning of the 1980s. Unemployment remains stubbornly high in the urban areas, having stabilised at around 8 per cent. And wages have fallen steeply: between 1980 and 1991 the average industrial wage fell by 17.5 per cent, and the average minimum wage by 35 per cent.

In sub-Saharan Africa the outlook is still gloomy. Urban unemployment is between 15 and 20 per cent and affects some 14 million people — a total which increases by about 10 per cent per year. Particularly disturbing here, says the report, is unemployment amongst the young: people aged between 15 and 24 make up only one-third of the region's labour force, but they are between two-thirds and three-quarters of the unemployed. Most of the new workers move into the informal sector which now employs over 60 per cent of the urban labour force.

Asia remains the most dynamic region of the developing world, so much so that newly industrialising economies, like the Republic of Korea and Singapore

now face severe labour shortages. And other fast-growing economies like Malaysia and Thailand are also moving in the same direction. Labour shortages in the region are met in part by flows of migrant workers from the labour surplus countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Philippines. The Philippines has unemployment officially estimated at 15 per cent and is now one of the world's major sources of migrant workers with 2 million people overseas.

The world labour report this year includes a disturbing survey of forced labour around the world. Slavery, it says, is still a serious problem in a number of African countries including Mauritania and Sudan. In Sudan the practice may even be increasing as a consequence of that country's civil war — destitute parents are selling their children for around \$70 each.

The report also looks at the practice of bonded labour — a form of forced labour still widespread in Asia, in such countries as India and Pakistan. In Pakistan, for example, according to some estimates, 20 million people would be working as bonded labourers, of whom 7.5 million are children.

In Latin America the report refers to cases of "white slavery". Brazilian workers are being re-

cruited under false pretences to work on large estates, but if they try to leave they are recaptured by gunmen and beaten or whipped. Many of the world's children are working as forced labour — including millions who work "unseen" in domestic service.

The report also includes a global survey of trade unions. In the Organisation for the Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, for which it gives the latest membership figures, the report finds that unions are under pressure from a number of different directions — including unemployment, tighter legislation, changing patterns of work and aggressive action from employers.

In Latin America the unions now work in a much more democratic atmosphere but find that this brings new problems as well as opportunities.

In Africa, the report points out, union members may not represent more than a few per cent of the workforce but they have had a disproportionate influence on the wave of democracy sweeping across the continent.

In Asia, governments in many countries, particularly those who wish to attract foreign investment, still exercise tight control over union activities.

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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Ferguson finally English Manager of Month

LONDON (AFP) — Alex Ferguson has been named English Manager of the Month — for the first time this season. The former Scotland boss won the April award after five successive victories lifted United to the brink of their first title in 26 years. Portsmouth's Tim Smith collected the Division One prize following a six-match unbeaten run during the month. Frank Stapleton, the former Republic of Ireland striker now in charge of Bradford, picked up his first award as the Second Division choice, while Brian Flynn was the Third Division winner after steering Wrexham to promotion.

Seles attacker admits Graf obsession

HAMBURG (AFP) — The man who stabbed tennis superstar Monica Seles admitted to police here Saturday that he carried out the attack because of his obsession for Steffi Graf, Seles' big on-court rival. He said, "I couldn't bear that Steffi wasn't number one in the world. 'I wanted to stop Monica playing. I didn't want to kill her.'" According to police, the man, whose first name is believed to be Gunter, had been to other tournaments, looking for a chance to attack Seles. "On Friday, I at last saw my chance," he said. Meanwhile Chris Evert, former world number one, said: "It's a scandal. If Monica gave up tennis tomorrow, I would understand." Top women's player Martina Navratilova said: "Whatever this man's reasons, they cannot justify an attack on a defenceless person." Pete Sampras, the men's world number one, said he has "totally appalled and shocked" after seeing the attack on television.

New Aintree boss pledges no repeat of fiasco

LONDON (R) — Charles Barnett, current head of Haydock Racecourse, was appointed managing director of Aintree Friday and immediately pledged to prevent a repeat of last month's Grand National fiasco. The race, annual highlight of Britain's national hunt season, was declared void after a disastrous mix-up at the start. Barnett, who has held the position on a temporary basis since the death of John Parrett last December, said: "We have our sights firmly set on a successful 1994 Grand National meeting."

Sampras moves into semifinals

DULUTH GEORGIA (AP) — The comeback of 1990 French Open champion Andre Gomez skidded off the clay Friday as the Ecuador native was beaten in the quarterfinals of the \$300,000 AT and T challenge by local favorite Bryan Shelton. Peter Sampras, the world's No. 1 player joined Shelton in the semifinals with a 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 victory over Australian Richard Fromberg. Sampras is after his fourth consecutive title. The American, who replaced compatriot Jim Courier as world number one earlier this month, joins three unseeded players in the final four of the upset-filled event. He was the only seeded player to reach the quarter-finals. In the semifinals Sampras will face Dutchman Jacco Eltingh, who dismissed Argentine clay court specialist Roberto Azar 6-2 6-2. The left-handed Azar reached the quarter-finals by upsetting third seed Malivai Washington.

Tennis security to come under review after attack on Seles

BERLIN (AP) — Tennis superstar Monica Seles, the world's No. 1 women's player, was stabbed with a kitchen knife at court-side in Hamburg, and tournament organisers said she would be sidelined about four weeks.

The attack occurred Friday when a 38-year-old German man leaned over a barrier and rammed a knife once into the 19-year-old Yugoslav star's back at the Citizen Cup Tournament.

At the time, Seles was sitting down during a break in a quarter-final match against Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva. Seles was ahead 6-4, 4-3.

Spectators helped subdue the man. The Germany Sports News Agency (SID) quoted tournament Director Guenter Sanders as saying four private security men in plain clothes were sitting behind the players.

There were no police officers inside the Rothenbaum Tennis Stadium, SID said. Police said they ruled out political motives. But there was immediate speculation the attack may have been politically motivated by warfare among her homeland's ethnic groups.

Seles has been receiving death threats dealing with the Yugoslav political situation for the last few years, said Ana Leaird, director of public relations for the WTA from the association's headquarters in St. Petersburg, Florida. Seles is ethnic Hungarian from Serbia and lists her country as Yugoslavia. She has lived in the United States since 1986.

"This attack will keep the game of tennis busy for a long time," ARD Television said late Friday. The network said there were already questions about whether gates and fences must be erected to protect tennis players.

In tennis, spectators can get close to the players.



Picture taken from TV monitor showing security personnel arresting the unidentified assailant (centre) who attacked and stabbed world number one women's tennis player Monica Seles with a large

knife at the Hamburg Open Tennis Tournament on April 30. Seles received a two-centimetre deep wound under her shoulder blade, and was taken into a hospital for treatment (AFP photo)

"We hope that it doesn't get as bad as the extremes, like the conditions in soccer stadiums," the network said. Seles' stabbing will serve to heighten concerns of athletes travelling abroad, and likely force the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) to reevaluate its security measures, said Mary Jo Fernandez, one of the top American players.

Susanne Raabe, a tournament organiser, said Seles suffered a single stab wound about one to two centimetres (about a half inch deep between the shoulders. Maleeva moves into the semifinals Saturday, where she faces No. 3 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

ARD Television and eyewitnesses said Seles' assailant appeared to have been drinking. In an interview on the all-news N-TV channel, a Hamburg police spokesman, Dankmar Lundt, said the man said he was a fan of No. 2 seed Steffi Graf, who faces Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic in the other semifinal Saturday.

He didn't want to kill Seles, only injure her to hinder her from playing," Mr. Lundt said. Earlier Mr. Lundt told the station the man was identified as a 38-year-old eastern German from Thuringia state. His name was not released.

"There were no political grounds," Mr. Lundt said. He said the man appeared confused and may have been mentally disturbed. Television viewers heard one shout that sounded like that of the attacker, and then a scream from Seles. The camera was not on Seles at the moment of the attack.

Seles reached for a spot on her upper back below the neck, appearing woozy as she stood at court-side. An unidentified man then helped her sit down, although she appeared to slump backward to the ground.

Seles was conscious but her face was twisted in pain. She was taken from the court on a gurney, as spectators broke into applause upon realising she was not in

life-threatening danger. Seles has won eight Grand Slam titles, including three straight French Open and three consecutive Australian Open crowns.

She has won every title but Wimbledon, where she lost to Graf in the final last year. Seles has been ranked No. 1 on the WTA Kraft Tour since Sept. 9, 1991, and was named Athlete of the Year in 1992.

Seles was visited by Graf Saturday morning following her stabbing ordeal. Police confirmed that Seles was knifed on court Friday by a 38-year-old German and a fanatical Graf fan.

She, Seles' great rival who is also taking part in Hamburg Tournament, went to comfort her, although Seles was not receiving other visitors.

She was reported to be still "very distressed", although the wound she received was not serious.

Police were expected to charge the man Saturday afternoon.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Bulls open title defence with big win

CHICAGO (R) — Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls made it clear right from the start that they are not going to easily surrender their National Basketball Association crown.

Jordan scored 18 of his 35 points in the first quarter Friday as Chicago began its quest to become only the third team to win three consecutive NBA championships with a resounding 114-90 triumph over the Atlanta Hawks in the opener of their best-of-five Eastern Conference playoff series.

The Bulls shot 69 per cent in the opening period and scored 11 straight points at the end of the first quarter and beginning of the second.

Chicago led by as many as 33 points in the second half. B.J. Armstrong and Bill Cartwright each scored 14 points for the Bulls and John Paxson added 12. Horace Grant grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked three shots.

Dominique Wilkins led the Hawks, as usual, with 34 points. Jordan finished 15-for-26 from the floor, including a 9-for-12 performance in the first quarter.

The New York Knicks, the club with the best record in the Eastern Conference this season, also got off to a fast start in their playoff opener, but barely survived to beat the Indiana Pacers 107-104.

The Knicks led by as many as 19 points but watched the advantage evaporate in the second half. They needed a basket by Patrick Ewing with 10.8 seconds left to break a 104-104 tie and were lucky to hold on for the win.

"Obviously we dodged a bullet," said Knicks coach Pat Riley. "We were very fortunate to win. It will have a sobering effect on our players."

The Pacers had tied the game of Lasalle Thompson's 15-foot baseline jumper with 30 seconds left. Ewing followed with his 14-footer from the corner and then made a crucial defensive play as he forced Reggie Miller to dribble the ball out of bounds with five seconds left.

New York's All-Star centre added a free throw to make it 107-104 and Indiana missed a chance to send the game into overtime when Miller missed a three-point shot as time ran out.

Miller scored 14 of his game-high 32 points in the fourth quarter and tied an NBA playoff record by going 17-for-17 from the free throw line.

Ewing scored 25 points and Charles Smith added 24 for the Knicks. In the Western Conference, the Los Angeles Lakers went to Phoenix and stunned the Suns as they beat the league's best team 107-103 to take a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five series.

Sedale Threatt scored a game-high 35 points, connecting on 17-of-24 field goals attempts and Byron Scott, who had 22 points, sank three free throws in the final 29 seconds to lift the Lakers to their surprising victory.

Charles Barkley had 34 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Suns, who seemed to forget to play defence much of the night. The teams traded the lead several times, but the Suns used a 7-0 run to grab a 101-96 lead late in the game. Los Angeles, however, rallied to outscore Phoenix 11-3 down the stretch.

The Lakers are the only sub-.500 team in the playoffs and were 0-5 against the Suns during the regular season. At Seattle, Shawn Kemp scored a playoff career-high 29 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to lead the Supersonics to a 99-85 victory over the Utah Jazz.

Ricky Pierce added 16 points for the Sonics, who are trying to avenge last year's loss to Utah in the Western Conference semifinals. Kemp had 23 points and 10 rebounds in the first half to help Seattle build a 45-36 halftime lead.

Seattle had closed the first quarter with a 10-1 run and held Utah without a field goal for nearly eight minutes while building a 36-19 lead early in the second.

Karl Malone had 24 points and 13 rebounds to lead the Jazz, whose 85 points was just three more than their all-time playoff low.



GETTING A WASH DOWN: Kentucky Derby favourite Prairie Bayou gets a wash down from James Brewer (left) and Leana Pollard after morning workouts at Churchill Downs. Prairie Bayou is the early favourite for the 119th running of the Derby Saturday (AFP photo)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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WHAT TRICKS?

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ K Q 5
♥ Q 8
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ A K Q 6
WEST
♠ 7 4
♥ 10 7 6 5 2
♦ 6 2
♣ 8 7 4 3
EAST
♠ 9 3
♥ A K 4 3
♦ 9 5
♣ J 10 9 5 2
SOUTH
♠ A J 10 8 6 2
♥ J 9
♦ K J 10 8 4
♣ Void

The bidding:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 6 NT Pass
Pass Dbl 7 ♠ Pass
Pass Dbl Pass Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠
When you double a slam from greed, just to take in an extra 50 or 100 points, you may be acutely embarrassed by your avarice—justifiably so. We might add. Just look what happened to poor East on this hand from a duplicate pair championship.

South's initial action can best be described as a mystery wrapped in an enigma. We can only surmise that, because of the bonus scoring for no trump against a suit, South

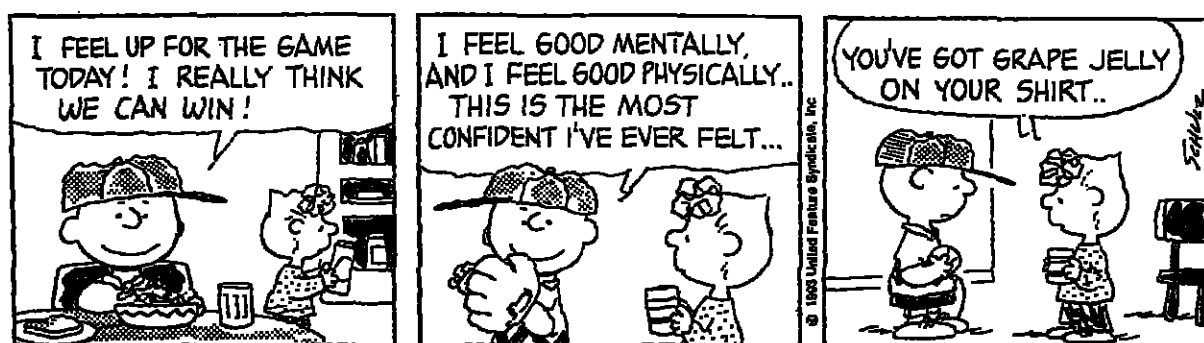
made the rather strange decision to play in six no trump rather than probe for a possible grand slam in a long suit. Sure of defeating six no trump, East doubled. Suddenly South began to have second thoughts. Certain that East held two quick tricks, South removed to seven spades. If East's winners were in the club suit, seven spades could be laydown when seven no trump was doomed to failure. East's second double was more out of pique than conviction.

South's decision to run had an additional advantage—West was now on opening lead. The defender thought long and hard about the choice of opening lead, but there really was nothing to point to one suit over another. West finally decided that there was more chance of finding partner's tricks in a suit in which West was short, and chose a diamond.

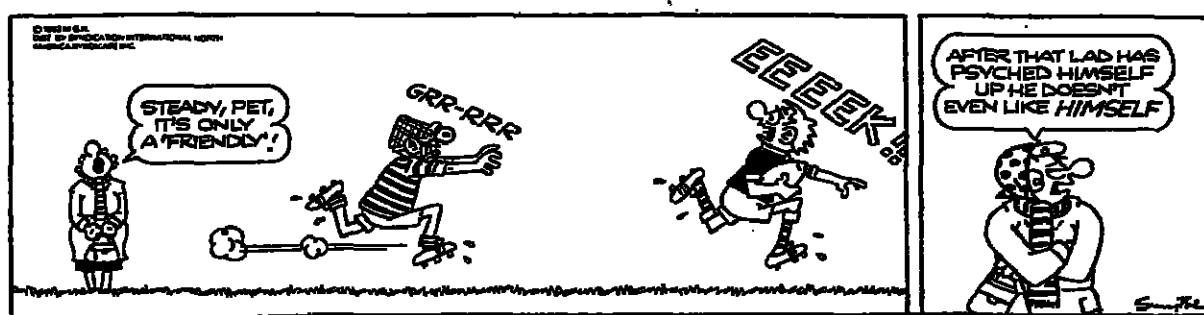
When dummy hit the table, declarer breathed a sigh of relief. Trumps were drawn, the ace and king of clubs were cashed for two heart discards, and 13 tricks rolled in.

Had East passed six no trump, a heart lead would have netted the defenders the first five tricks and 400 points. The total swing on the deal was 2,870 points.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MAY 2, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Four solid Moon aspects from early A.M. to late P.M. make this a highly energized day when psychic abilities are highly tuned and changeable mood help break through inhibiting patterns.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Use this day for getting friends and acquaintances to give you suggestions on how you can best attain fascinating goals, then considerate private aspects.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get out in the world and let those in power be more aware of some brilliant idea you have for gaining more prestige with the general public.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Early consider how you can extend your sphere of influence beyond present boundaries and then you get the support of one with power to make it work.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get out of that traditional rut and do something of a modern nature that can bring you more respect, favour from business persons.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) It is a fine day to extend your acquaintances to include some persons you feel to be out of the ordinary but who have pointers they can teach that will aid you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try to get the suggestions of a

modern minded expert in your field of endeavour by putting such advice in effect you can be much more successful.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider well the recreations you want to be a part of in the future and let it be known to those involved and make immediate arrangements to pursue.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) It is important that even if tasks in the outside world, you keep part of your thoughts focused upon what you can do to improve home conditions.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) In any calls or visits you make be sure it is to those who can give you excellent new age responses that can further your own prosperity.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are a natural conservative but especially where it comes to money or business matters but today, get into progressive views that can increase your assets.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can project your ideas and viewpoints today in a remarkable manner so get busy from early morning doing just that and impress everyone around.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your day to get out of that rut into which you are grooved and to get in touch with current condition, become a part of them.

THE BETTER HALF

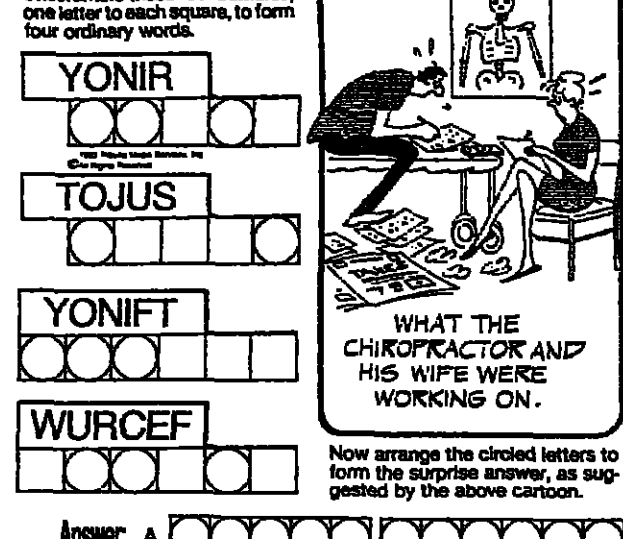
By Glasbergen



"I think I found the solution to my problems. I'm going back to kindergarten to start my life over!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold



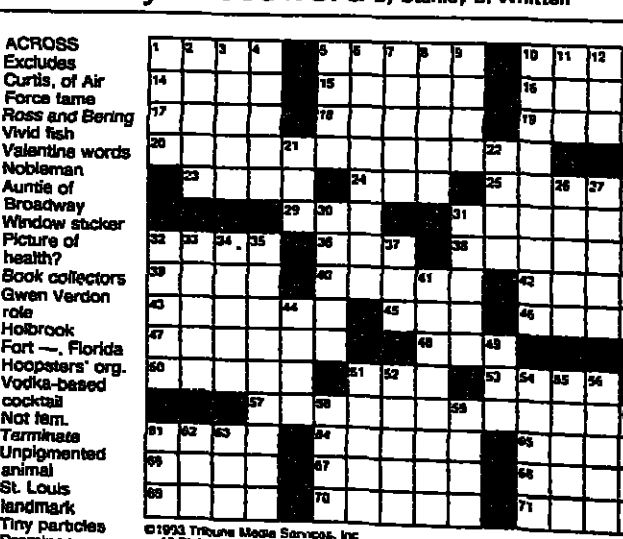
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: SHAKY HOARD MOTIVE JESTER

Answer: What the cute little potato was warned against—MASHERS

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whittan



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across: 1. Excludes 2. Cuts, of Air 3. Force fame 4. Road and Bering 5. Vivid fish 6. Valentine words 7. Nobleman 8. Aunts of Broadway 9. Window sticker 10. Picture of health 11. Book collectors 12. Gwen Verdon role 13. Fort —, Florida 14. Hoopsters' org. 15. Vodka-based cocktail 16. Not item 17. Terminate 18. Unpigmented animal 19. St. Louis landmark 20. Tiny particles 21. Prancing 22. Ford 23. Tiptoe 24. Jump 25. Habitués 26. "Misers" 27. Wire 28. Unit of length 29. Herd of whales 30. Guid 31. Display 32. Castle or Dunne 33. Actor 34. Blue-pencil 35. Lazar 36. Slaughter of beasts 37. Oscar de la 38. Band over 39. Houston pro 40. Decadent violence 41. Canadian peninsula 42. Legendairine 43. Scour 44. City in North Carolina 45. Put on 46. Hatter

47. Zoo favorite 48. Coffee variety 49. Benefit 50. Shout 51. Marilyn Monroe, e.g. 52. Corn unit 53. Parsaghi 54. Clever 55. Actor Fleming 56. Jennings 57. Type of type 58. Oscar de la 59. Band over 60. Rosary components

47. Look 48. Obviously 49. Reborn 50. Horses 51. Clumsy 52. Aqueous mammal 53. Reas or Rigg 54. Pose

Economists: Britain lacks coherent economic policy

LONDON (R) — The British recession may have ended but a large majority of economists polled by Reuters believes that the ruling Conservative Party lacks a coherent macroeconomic strategy.

A poll of 20 economists at leading financial institutions found that 70 per cent believed the government lacked such a strategy and 75 per cent said Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont should be replaced as soon as possible.

The survey showed deep concern that the government was making policy on the spot of its own volition, with no clear intellectual framework to guide it.

The financial markets' persistent belief that Britain should seek a new chancellor suggests Mr. Lamont has failed to shake off the battle-scars of last September's forced exit of the pound from the European Community exchange rate mechanism (ERM), economists said.

It seems that his retention of the coveted post might be harming market perception of the viability of British economic policy, they added.

"We think inflation is going to move up sharply. The problem is the government is not part of the solution," said Chris Dillow, economist at Nomura Securities.

Since Britain left the ERM currency grid policy makers have been piecing together a pro-growth strategy involving sharp interest rate cuts.

The economy is responding but deep-rooted problems remain, with the trade deficit and public finances deep in the red and inflation threatening to rise this year and next.

On average economists expect underlying inflation of around 4.25 per cent by mid-1994, above the government's one to four per cent target range.

World Bank: South Asia still accounts for half world's poor

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Much progress has been made in reducing poverty in Asia, but poverty levels remain high in the Indian sub-continent and progress is slowing in China, the World Bank has said.

East Asia is on the way to eradicating poverty, according to a report released here, but South Asia still accounts for half the world's poor, with 49 per cent of its population living below the poverty line.

In China, the number of poor has been reduced from 270 million in 1978 to 100 million in 1985, or from a third of the total population to less than a tenth.

But with the poor population now essentially concentrated in areas poor in natural resources, largely upland areas in interior provinces, "achieving further reductions in poverty will be more difficult than in the past," the report said.

Elsewhere in East Asia, Malaysia has seen its poverty level fall from 49.3 per cent in 1970 to 15.3 per cent in 1989, while Indonesia achieved "an impressive reduction in poverty during the 1980s despite having to make macroeconomic adjustments in response to external shocks."

But in South Asia progress has been less spectacular. Bangladesh has managed to reduce its poverty level from 51 per cent of rural

population and 56 per cent of urban population in 1986 to 48 and 44 per cent in 1988-89, while in Nepal 40 per cent of the population is still living in poverty.

In India "far-reaching structural reforms to promote growth and efficient labour demand" are needed if further progress is to be made, and in Pakistan almost 60 per cent of children under five are suffering some kind of nutritional deficiency.

IMF chief opposes selling gold to help poorest nations

WASHINGTON (AFP) — International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Michel Camdessus rejected here Friday a British proposal to sell part of the IMF's gold reserves to fund aid for the world's poorest countries.

"My basic conviction is that the gold of the fund is the strength of the institution and we have to think twice before we think of diverting it to other purposes," Mr. Camdessus told a press conference.

"We are living in difficult times but who can tell us what the situation will be at the beginning of the next century?" when in his view "the world will need a still

stronger fund," Mr. Camdessus added. He felt the Fund should pursue its "conservative" attitude with regard to using its monetary gold reserves.

Earlier Friday, British Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont had told world financial leaders meeting here: "I would not rule out some modest sales of IMF gold as a way to fund at least part of the cost" of a future balance of payments support for the poorest countries.

A British Treasury official said a "modest" sale could involve 10 to 15 million ounces of gold over 10 years starting in 1996, or some

10 per cent of the IMF's 103 million ounces in gold reserves. In value terms, that would mean at least 2.5 billion Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), or \$3.5 billion in all at current prices.

"For a relatively modest sum we could fund quite a large part of an ESAP successor," the Treasury official said. The Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) which provides concessional IMF funding to stricken low-income countries expires at the end of this year.

The IMF says ESAF has been successful, and that a new programme of aid will be needed to

succeed it. Donors may be hard to find at a time when many governments are involved in fiscal retrenchment and "it will be necessary to examine imaginative ways to contain the cost and to finance the new facility," Mr. Lamont said.

Any decision to sell IMF gold must be approved by 85 per cent of voting rights within the international financial organisation. A declaration issued at the end of Friday's meeting of the IMF interim committee grouping world finance ministers said the IMF should examine "all the options" for the funding an ESAF successor.

IMF reported urging Kuwait to reduce government spending

KUWAIT (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recommended Kuwait tackle its budget deficit by cutting government staff and wages and increasing domestic retail prices, a newspaper has reported.

A report by an IMF team that visited Kuwait urged "reform policies to check the quick depletion of Kuwait's financial reserves" that could affect international confidence in the economy and the Kuwaiti dinar, the Arab Times said.

The team also urged the emirate, which has created affluent living standards and a generous welfare state through oil exports, to impose charges for all public services apart from education, the newspaper added.

The report recommended the Kuwaiti authorities "deal with the probabilities by adopting a reformative financial policy during the 1993/94 fiscal year and following years."

Kuwait, struggling with budget deficits because of the Gulf war, has projected a shortfall of 1.02 billion dinars (\$3.58 billion) for the 1993/94 fiscal year starting July 1.

The emirate recorded a deficit of two billion dinars (\$6.5 billion) in 1992/93 and 5.33 billion dinars (\$17.5 billion) in 1991/92. The emirate is estimated to have liquidated two-thirds of a \$100 billion portfolio of overseas investment to pay for war-related costs, including oil sector repairs and recovery.

Spending pressure was such that Kuwait went to international capital markets for a \$5.5 billion loan in late 1991.

Kuwait withdrew an estimated total 10.5 billion dinars (\$35 billion) from official reserves to cover the deficit in 1990/91, 1991/92 and 1992/93, the newspaper said.

"Serious efforts must be made to cut government wages, purchase of commodities and services, a local subsidies and transactions and other related sectors," the report was quoted as saying.

"The 1993/94 budget must contain a number of measures such

as increasing energy prices — especially petrol — to international levels, imposing or increasing charges on all public services — except education — to cover their cost."

Petrol prices at the pumps are around 200 fils (65 U.S. cents) a gallon. The report also called for a liberalisation of interest policy, saying the central bank's traditional policy of setting minimum interest rates on deposits and maximum interest rates on loans would ultimately hit the level of savings.

Economists said that a planned overhaul of Kuwait's domestic interest rate structure appears aimed at stimulating the stagnant economy and boosting commercial banks enfeebled by a chronic bad debt problem.

The adjustments planned by the central bank, including a 0.5 per cent cut in the discount rate to 7.0 per cent, will allow greater flexibility in fixing minimum interest rates on deposits and maximum rates on loans.

The measures, announced by the central bank Monday, are expected to take effect upon publication in the government gazette within a week.

"The discount rate cut and the new interest rate structure will have positive implications for the financial market and improve banking sector performance," a bank statement carried by the official Kuwait News Agency said.

The economy has remained sluggish despite a revival in oil

revenues largely because of a post-Gulf war fall in population and worries over Iraq and bad debts.

Five of the six commercial banks recorded heavy losses for 1990 and 1991.

"The central bank is trying to increase the profitability of the banks by lowering their cost of funds (cheaper borrowing) and increasing their consumer loan margins," a commercial banker who would not be named said.

The maximum rate on consumer loans will be the new discount rate — 7.0 per cent — compared to six per cent currently.

Interest payments will continue to be front end discounted, producing a new effective rate of over 12 per cent compared with the current effective rate of 11-3/4 per cent.

Bankers said the changes allow the banks more discretion in setting fixed deposit rates. Maximums have been raised on some loan rates and minimums have been lowered or removed for rates on some categories of fixed deposits.

The changes would also give the government, under strong parliamentary pressure to cut state spending, leeway to lower the calendar 1993 rate it will pay on 5.6 billion dinars (\$18.5 billion) of bonds it issued to commercial banks last year.

The government swapped the bonds for the banks' portfolios of dubious loans in the first stage of a plan to solve a problem originating in the 1982 collapse of an informal bourse built on postdated cheques.

Arabs may import 30 million tonnes of steel by year 2000

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab countries may have to import 30 million tonnes of steel by 2000 unless they can sharply boost their own production, a Qatari official was quoted as saying.

Arab steel production is increasing, but it "does not match Arab needs," Qatari Electricity and Water Minister Ali Al Subai told the Arab Steel Union (ASU), according to the Qatari News Agency monitored here.

A report by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund showed steel production in the Arab World stood at around 16 million tonnes a year and it could rise by eight million tonnes a year when current expansions are completed. But it said the level accounted for less than 50 per cent of regional demand.

Algeria is the biggest Arab steel producer, with an output of

around 3.5 million tonnes a year, followed by Saudi Arabia, which produces about 2.8 million tonnes a year. Egypt, Morocco and Qatar are also major steel producers, with a combined output of around 3.5 million tonnes.

The report showed iron ore reserves in the Arab region totalled 16.8 billion tonnes, the bulk of which are based on Algeria, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Mauritania. But mining capacity does not exceed 17 million tonnes.

"The capacity does not match the large reserves and the significance of iron production in the development of Arab industries," the report said.

Economists said demand was growing fastest in the oil-rich Gulf, where the end of the war has triggered a business upturn and attracted many firms.

They said construction was among the sectors most affected by the upturn given its high return and the absence of other major investment opportunities.

Mr. Subai estimated Gulf demand for iron bars at nearly 2.5 million tonnes a year and warned that international companies could take advantage of low Arab steel output to dump cheap products on the regional market.

"We hope the Arab Steel Union will exert more efforts to set up joint ventures to meet the local demand for steel. Arab plants should also complement each other instead of competing," he said.

ASU's Chairman Masoud Shitah called for a strategy to develop the Arab steel sector, which he said was vital for a strong industrial and economic base.

Regulators propose further bank capital adequacy rules

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — International Bank regulators Friday proposed new capital adequacy requirements for banks to cover risk in the rapidly-growing market for derivative financial instruments.

The measures, which have been under discussion among regulators and central bank governors for five years, would only modestly increase the amount of capital that banks are required to set aside to cover their risk exposure.

"I hope that the discipline of these proposals will sharpen the attention of banks to the management of risk," Gerald Corrigan, chairman of the Basle committee on banking supervision, told a news conference at the Bank for International Settlements, speaking by telephone from New York.

The Basle committee's original 1988 proposal for minimum capital adequacy requirements for banks in 1988, which stipulated

banks must set aside capital equivalent to eight per cent of their lending, sent shock waves through the international financial sector.

Mr. Corrigan, who is also president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, said the three new proposals, which stipulate capital requirements to cover exposure to market risk but which take account of the reduced risk resulting from the netting of positions, would modestly increase capital adequacy needs.

"Except in extraordinary circumstances I would be very surprised to see these measures increasing capital adequacy requirements for banks by more than one percentage point, he pointed out.

The committee proposed an expansion of the scope of netting arrangements acceptable for calculations of capital adequacy. Netting is a procedure by which banks offset their gross mutual financial obligations to each other

and calculate a net figure that one owes the other. It reduces the amount of capital banks have to set aside to cover credit risk and thus frees capital for other purposes.

The new plan, which would come into effect next year, would allow netting of the total commitments between two banks, regardless of instrument or maturity date, if regulators were convinced of the legal soundness of any bilateral agreements.

The committee also proposed measuring the risk exposure of banks incurred by unexpected price fluctuations in markets. It sets up capital adequacy requirements for banks' trading in debt, equity and currency instruments.

The committee also wants a system to measure and compare the risks to different institutions from interest-rate fluctuations. National regulators would impose capital requirements case-by-case if exposure was considered too high.

Sudan cuts inflation to 80%

CAIRO (R) — Sudan has taken steps to halve its public spending deficit and has trimmed inflation to 80 per cent, Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Hamdi said in remarks published Saturday.

Mr. Hamdi was replying to a report by Sudan's national assembly suggesting that inflation was out of control. Al Khartoum newspaper quoted him as telling reporters inflation had now dropped to 80 per cent from 149 per cent in the second half of 1992. Inflation and a fuel shortage that has virtually stopped traffic in and between Sudan's cities for days at a time have sparked scattered protests in the Arab north. Mr. Hamdi said an austerity programme, which did not affect energy, water or railway projects, would halve the budget deficit to 34 billion Sudanese pounds (\$170 million).

Indian experts warn of acute food shortfall

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India will face an acute food shortfall in the next five to 10 years unless cereal production is stepped up to match the population boom, according to agricultural experts.

Indian Agriculture Research Institute chief S. K. Sinha, summing up the findings of a panel of farm experts, said the current output is "just about balancing the rising population," the Press Trust of India has reported.

But he warned that this would not be adequate in meeting future demands and India might have to go the way of many African and South American countries who import cereals to meet domestic requirement.

India's annual food production is estimated at about 179 million tonnes and growth has been poor. Mr. Sinha said India should shift its focus from states which boast a high food production rate like the northern states of Punjab and Haryana to neglected areas in the south and east which have potential.

He said newer technologies, better irrigation facilities and promotion of cereals other than rice and wheat were vital to boost production and avert the projected shortage.

India, home to some 870 people, adds about 17 million people, the population of Australia, to its numbers every year.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHEIKH SAUD				
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170				
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (24/04/1993 - 28/04/1993)				
WEEKLY REPORT				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PRIV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING CLOSING PRICE	
ARAB BANK	544,070	137.750	138.500	137.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	684,710	5.040	5.000	4.990
CLARO AMMAN BANK	4,294	25.000	25.500	25.500
BANK OF JORDAN	8,711	25.250	25.200	24.900
HILDESHEIM INVESTMENT BANK	314,919	1.400	1.350	1.400
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	387,730	4.000	3.970	4.000
THE HOUSING BANK	48,506	3.850	3.840	3.820
JORDAN KIBRAH BANK	27,810	2.420	2.410	2.410
JORDAN KIBRAH INVESTMENT BANK	281,000	4.120	4.120	4.120
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	2,049	4.400	4.410	4.300
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	20,255	4.400	4.200	4.210
INDUSTRIAL BANK	20,420	4.200	4.200	4.200
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	15,774	4.000	6.000	5.950
NETT ELMAL SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	129,430	5.500	5.700	5.600
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	412,742	1.800	1.800	1.800
JORDAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	17,947	1.410	1.400	1.360
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	1,314,056	1.550	1.630	1.780
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,888	2.700	2.620	2.650
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,441,000	4.230	4.980	3.840
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	41,914	2.840	2.880	2.830
UNIVERSAL BANK	2,310	3.150	3.150	3.150
HILAL TRADING	10,466	5.000	5.250	5.150
PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE	60,444	2.950	3.940	2.930
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	3,265	3.300	3.300	3.450
JORDAN OUL INSURANCE	2,222	2.910	2.910	3.060
THE NATIONAL ARABIA INSURANCE	1,063	3.100	3.200	3.250
AL-HILAL AL-MAJDI INVESTMENT	24	4.240	0.000	0.000
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	11,718	4.440	6.300	7.700
JORDAN BANK & TRADING	10,993	1.290	1.350	1.320
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	26,033	3.770	3.750	3.750
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	9,947	2.250	2.250	2.250
JORDAN TRADING & SPA COMPLEX	19,823	0.700	0.650	0.660
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	150,281	4.120	4.120	4.050
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	214,769	1.770	1.780	1.820
JORDAN OUL REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	598,488	0.780	0.770	0.860
PEYRA RECONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT LEASING	43,950	1.130	1.140	1.200
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	82,166	1.650	1.650	1.970
MOHAMED HADJI, HADJI & HADJI	23,721	12.800	1.370	3.340
JORDAN PRIME INVESTMENT / ALMA	4,885	30.100	10.500	11.000
JORDAN PRIME INVESTMENT	3,350	6.500	6.500	6.500
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING / AD-DESIGN	359,558	2.270	1.300	2.190
UNIVERSAL INVESTMENT	50,721	2.000	1.940	1.970
ATTAQUEH COOPER. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	953,909	1.910	1.920	2.000
JORDAN PRIME INVESTMENT	3,256	4.550	4.420	4.450
JORDAN PRIME INVESTMENT	257,420	10.580	10.550	10.510
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	378	7.600	7.700	7.700
THE JORDANIAN COINVEST FACTORIES	5,127	2.430	2.410	2.500
JORDAN PRIME INVESTMENT	1,449,841	1.670	1.680	1.680
THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	24,427	9.200	9.400	9.850
THE JORDAN WORKERS HILLS	26,533	7.140	7.200	7.250
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL & MANUFACTURING	546,830	4.440	4.500	4.500
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	1,078,215	6.520	6.800	7.370
JORDAN DAIRY	175,048	2.550	2.530	2.540
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	76,199	2.760	2.750	2.630
THE PUBLIC TRADING	1,132	3.100	3.050	3.050
ARAB CEMENT INDUSTRIES INDUSTRIES	177,205	31.700	21.500	21.850
SPINNING & WEAVING	292,645	3.240	3.280	3.300
RAJYA INDUSTRIES	5,947	3.450	3.400	3.470
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	13,711	0.700	0.710	0.700
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1,439,276	14.950	15.000	14.500
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	196,615	3.450	3.450	3.500
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	625,388	4.750	4.400	4.130
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	77,095	0.870	0.870	0.800
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	127,466	3.150	3.050	3.270
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1,085,566	2.150	2.200	2.170
ARAB PAPER CONSTRUCTION & TRADING	8,421	0.520	0.530	0.520
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	847,203	6.050	6.100	6.120
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	65,823	0.520	0.500	0.500
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	625,388	4.750	4.400	4.130
INDUSTRIAL PRIME INVESTMENT INDUSTRIES	36,355	5.350	5.400	5.220
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	170,513	2.900	2.900	2.940
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MANUFACTURING	24,613	2.280	2.270	2.250
JORDAN PRIME INVESTMENT	132,237	0.410	0.410	0.410
JORDAN PRIME INVESTMENT	35,345	4.100	4.080	4.100
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	2,643,143	11.030	11.250	11.300
JORDAN PRIME INVESTMENT	258,145	4.440	4.550	4.590
JORDAN PRIME INVESTMENT	285,145	6.200	6.200	6.120
JORDAN PRIME INVESTMENT	513,219	1.950	1.940	2.030
JORDAN PRIME INVESTMENT	1,175,388	5.180	5.180	5.280
GRAND TOTAL	22,577,428			
PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (24/04/1993 - 28/04/1993)				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PRIV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING CLOSING PRICE	
GENERAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	692,343	0.840	0.860	1.000
ARAB CONTRACTORS	4,000	0.990	1.000	1.000
ARAB TRIPER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	719,428	2.580	2.600	3.040
JORDAN CONTRACTORS	35,544	0.440	0.450	0.450
JORDAN TRADE FACILITIES	12,336	1.920	1.930	1.800
JORDANIAN SPECIFICATED INVESTMENT HOLDING	8,250	3.550	3.500	3.500
GRAND TOTAL	1,465,788			



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